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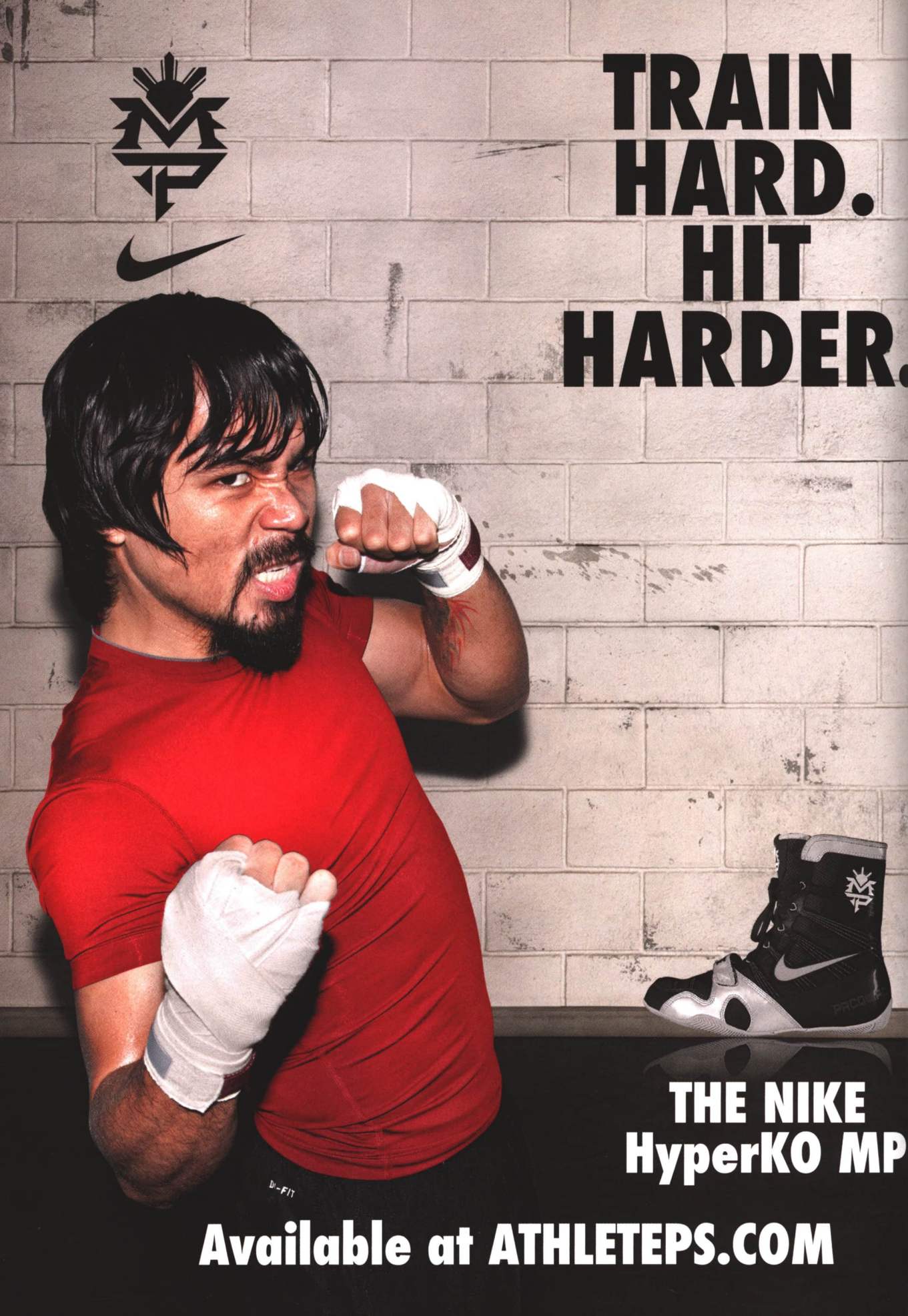
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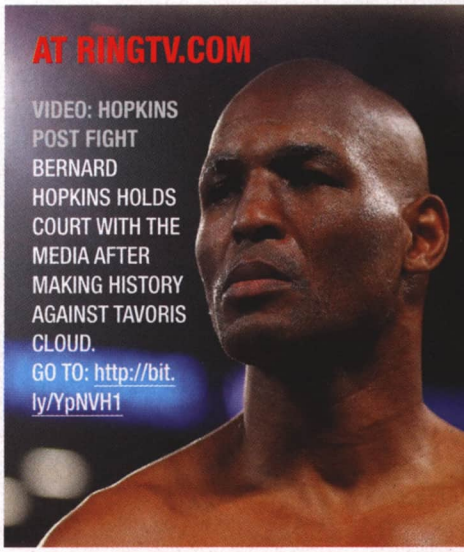

BERNARD HOPKINS: ELSA-GETTY

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COVER IMAGES: AL BELLO-GETTY (MAYWEATHER) AND TOM HOGAN-HOGANPHOTOS.COM (GUERRERO)

THE PERFECT ROLE MODEL

By: **Michael Rosenthal**

A doctor or a lawyer or a boxing writer can ply his or her trade until it's time to collect Social Security checks. Not so with boxers, who typically have a limited shelf life because of the rigors of the sport.

Unless you're Bernard Hopkins.

I picked against Hopkins again before he fought then-IBF light heavyweight titleholder Tavoris Cloud on March 9 in Brooklyn, N.Y., reasoning that age has to catch up to him at some point.

Then he did it to me once more, schooling Cloud to become for the second time the oldest man ever to win a major title – this time at 48 – and expose my vast limitations as a prognosticator. You'd think I'd know better by now.

Hopkins' boxing acumen might be unsurpassed. And it certainly is the main reason he has been able to consistently defeat younger men. Make no mistake, though: All that savvy is useful only because his body is still able to do what it's told.

Hopkins isn't so much a physical freak as a man devoted wholly to his mission. A fitness expert I know insists that anyone who maintains his or her body properly – perfect nutrition, perfect exercise, plenty of rest – can maintain at least near-peak athletic performance longer than one might imagine.

That's Hopkins, who rarely strays from an optimal diet and is never, ever out of shape. Think about that: This has been his regimen for a quarter century, 25 years of watching every morsel of food, no excesses (read: alcohol or drugs), no long breaks from training.

Image: John Gichigi-Getty

Most of us would call such a Spartan lifestyle "torture." In his case, it's called "professionalism." Hopkins behaves exactly as a boxer should behave if he wants to realize his full potential, a model every young fighter should emulate.

And you can bet that his habits won't change radically even when he does walk away. I know I'm going to run into him when he's 70 and say, "Man, you look like you're in fighting shape."

Of course he might still be an active fighter at 70. Nothing this man does could surprise me any longer.

Hopkins will be remembered as one of the greatest middleweights ever. His record of 20 successful title defenses is among the sport's most notable feats. And even casual fans marvel at his longevity, which ranks among the most astounding in sports history.

I'll always admire him for those reasons but mostly because he did things the right way for so long. We could all learn so much from him.

The RING

VOLUME 92, NO. 6 | JUNE 2013

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THE RING (ISSN: 0035-5410), Vol. 92, No. 6 (June 2013), is published monthly by Sports and Entertainment Publications, LLC, 510 Township Line Rd., Suite 130, Blue bell, PA 19422. Periodicals postage paid at Blue Bell, PA 19422 and additional post offices. Postmasters: Send change of address notices to: THE RING, P.O. Box 433122, Palm Coast, FL 32164-3122. Single copy price $8.95 in U.S. and Canada (£4.95 in the UK). Subscription price $78.70 in the U.S., $127.10 in Canada and Mexico, $143.70 in remaining countries. Not responsible for the loss or non-return of unsolicited articles or photographs, which will not be returned unless accompanied by a self-addressed envelope bearing the proper amount of postage. The entire contents of this magazine are copyright ©2012 Sports and Entertainment Publications, LLC. No part of this magazine may be reproduced without the written permission of the publisher. All rights reserved. Publisher is not responsible for the accuracy of the content of advertisements appearing in this magazine, nor the delivery or quality of merchandise or services offered. No endorsement of any such advertisement is intended or implied. Advertisers and agencies assume liability for claims arising from the content of their advertisements. FOR ADVERTISING INQUIRES AND RATES: (213) 233-2952. U.S. and Canadian distribution by Kable Distribution Services Inc., 14 Wall Street, Suite 4C, New York, NY 10022. International distribution by Worldwide Media Service Inc., 115 East 23rd St., New York, NY 10010, UK distribution by Comag Tavistock Rd., West Drayton, Middlesex UB77QE, England. **Printed in U.S.A.**

THRILL OF VICTORY: Lamont Peterson had reason to celebrate after his impressive eighth-round knockout of Kendall Holt on Feb. 22 in Washington, D.C., Peterson's first fight in 14 months. He earned another stiff challenge with the victory: He faces Lucas Matthysse on May 18.

Image: Jim Watson-AFP-Getty

NEVER GIVE UP: Hard-luck veteran Ishe Smith (left) was written off by many in the boxing world – including himself not too long ago – before he outpointed 39-year-old Cornelius Bundrage to win the IBF junior middleweight title on Feb. 23 in Detroit.

Image: Naoki Fukuda

START OF SOMETHING BAD: Referee Pat Russell ruled Timothy Bradley's first-round visit to the canvas a slip but it was clear then that Ruslan Provodnikov represented danger on March 16 in Carson, Calif. Bradley was hurt badly several times but won a close decision.

Image: Naoki Fukuda

HUMILITY WOULD'VE HELPED

Congratulations to Timothy Bradley on his hard fought victory over an extremely tough Ruslan Provodnikov on March 16. This was one decision that felt right, even if the first knockdown was missed. Provodnikov just gave up too many rounds in the middle of the fight. Watching the background on Bradley before the fight got me thinking. I believe the HBO crew missed the critical point of why Bradley has faced such a negative reaction from the public after the Pacquiao decision. Of course, Bradley wasn't at fault for the terrible judging of that fight, but what I, and I suspect others, found annoying about his response was the complete lack of genuineness he displayed shortly after he came out of his own shock that he had gotten the decision. He displayed his true feelings right after the fight when everyone could tell that he knew he had lost. To then turn around and act as if everyone got it wrong, and he had won the fight, is why I think the public response was so severe. A bit of humility would have gone a long way. Bradley may in fact be the good guy that HBO promotes him as, but in this instance he didn't display it. I for one would like to see Bradley get his rematch with Pacquiao, especially now that we know he'll go toe to toe. If he can pull out a real victory, he will get the recognition he craves.

Jim Factor,
Danville, Calif.

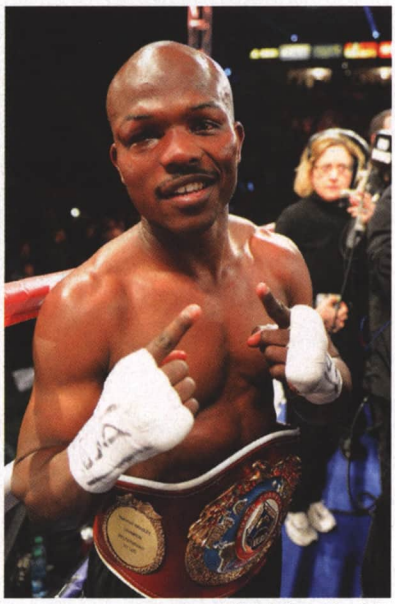

Image: Kevork Djansezian-Getty

BAFFLING SYSTEM

I have never understood the 10-point scoring system. There are many instances in which one fighter, while scoring no knockdowns, still manages to severely hurt his opponent, even leaving him badly "wobbled" or (as we used to say in more politically incorrect times) "on queer street." Why are such rounds not scored 10-8, or even 10-7, despite no knockdowns? Why should judges have a full 10-point scoring range if it is only used following a knockdown? One could easily have given Ruslan Provodnikov four 10-8 margins (rounds 1, 2, 6 and 12) against Timothy Bradley. Although Provodnikov was denied credit for a first round knockdown, this would not have mattered under a bolder system of using the 10-point scoring range. Following a "slip," Bradley struggled to his feet, only to stumble backward again; clearly a 10-8 round for Provodnikov! Had this slip been ruled a knockdown it might even have warranted a 10-7 score favoring the Russian. This would have changed the final decision. Bradley was badly hurt on four occasions while Provodnikov, despite a nasty cut, was never wobbled even once. Provodnikov's awesome power won my cerebral scorecard; Bradley's courage won my heart. Great fight!

Jake Vanderkooy, Ph.D
York University
(Glendon campus)
Toronto, Ontario, Canada

BAD MEMORY

It's true that Sergei Kovalev opened some eyes after the beating he gave to Gabriel Campillo on Jan. 19. I'm sure this guy will give trouble to any light heavyweight around. When I saw a photo of him in the magazine (April issue, Page 32) I recognized him as the guy who fought Roman Simakov in 2011 for a fringe WBC title. Simakov died three days afterward at 27. I saw that fight only one time and I don't want to see a replay of it. As a boxer myself and a human being, I was in tears watching that young man losing control of his body and collapsing for the last time in a ring. We should talk about newcomers like Kovalev, of course; that's business. But I think that the Bible of Boxing should have a place for stories like the one of Roman Simakov, too. Maybe that kind of story, revealing to readers what the sweet science is really about, can replace the pictures of the young women in strings and filled with silicone.

Luis Collazo-Côté
Montréal

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Image: Naoki Fukuda

Bernard Hopkins' historic victory over Tavoris Cloud on March 9 in Brooklyn, N.Y., was another example of mind over matter.

OLD SCHOOL, NEW HEIGHTS

By: **David Greisman**

The inconsistent entertainment provided by Bernard Hopkins' performances leaves us between a rock and a "Hard Nard" place. When he fights ugly, he fights horribly so, and there is just cause for us to want him to retire — not because he is in danger of subjecting himself to more punishment, but rather because we are the ones feeling the pain.

But when he boxes well, he boxes beautifully so, showing why he will not retire until he is forced to. Last year, at 47, Hopkins could not overcome the challenge of Chad Dawson's physical advantages. This year, at 48, Hopkins tamed another younger titleholder in Tavoris Cloud, winning by unanimous decision and making it look far easier than it should be for a fighter of his age.

On defense, Hopkins can be difficult to hit cleanly. And on offense, he can be dangerous if he is taken lightly. Cloud threw more punches but was not nearly as active as he has been in recent fights, not when Hopkins is so effective at frustrating and intimidating.

Cloud couldn't bull-rush Hopkins, nor could he out-box him, and several of his shots missed wildly. He was more pensive and less problematic, and he was left discouraged. Instead of raining punches on Hopkins, he dissipated until his chances of winning evaporated. Hopkins, meanwhile, was faced with a low-pressure system who neither hurt nor rattled him. He was impressively able to land more punches than Cloud and, most importantly, win more rounds than him.

Tavoris "Thunder" Cloud went out with no flash and no boom, a power puncher stifled by subtleties in timing and technique.

Whereas most older fighters break down through wear and tear, Hopkins has been as disciplined in the ring as he is in life. He is remarkably well preserved and has

adjusted his approach as he has aged. He may no longer be physically better than his foes, but he is mentally superior and knows how to capitalize on what his body can still do.

It wasn't a great fight, but it wasn't a bad one either. We hold Hopkins to a different standard than we do younger boxers, marveling not just at his ability to survive prizefighters who are still in their prime, but also to undo and then out-do them.

Hopkins' career started when he exited the prison in Graterford after nearly five years there. A quarter of a century has passed and we still don't know when his career will end. When it does, he will wait another five years — this time to enter the Hall of Fame in Canastota, N.Y.

.....

You can tell just how highly Floyd Mayweather Jr. is regarded and how slight Robert Guerrero's chances are of beating him by looking at the talk immediately after their bout was officially announced. The buzz was more about Mayweather's deal with Showtime and less about the opponent he will be dealing with in his first fight under that network's pay-per-view umbrella.

That's because the fact that Mayweather is fighting is more important than who he is facing. There is never any debate over who holds the starring role. The only question is how well his supporting characters can perform — at the box office as well as in the ring.

Guerrero doesn't carry much cachet outside of boxing, though few truly do in a world where the long-retired, long-restrained version of Mike Tyson still gets more mainstream headlines than any other fighter. But Guerrero has been around long enough, and is accomplished enough, that he is seen as a respectable foe who will at least attempt to present an entertaining challenge to the best boxer in the world.

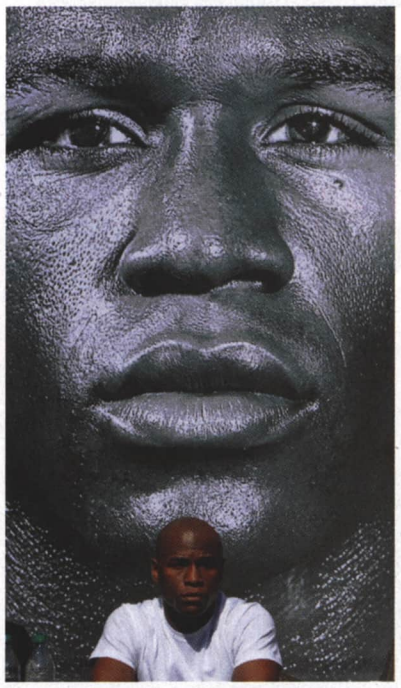

Image: Mark Ralston-AFP-Getty

The fact that Floyd Mayweather Jr. is fighting is more important than who his opponent is.

It would be easy to write off Guerrero as being Mayweather's second straight foe to earn this payday simply by battling and beating Andre Berto in an entertaining war, just as Victor Ortiz did. In reality, Guerrero is among the best of what's available.

Mayweather, by virtue of his position not only as boxing's best fighter but also as its most valuable commodity, has the ability to pick and choose when and whom he fights. In essence, he has a bye with an uncertain timeframe while the other playoff teams pick each other apart.

A fight with Manny Pacquiao was never going to happen anyway, given the egos of the boxers and promoters involved. That discussion became even more moot once Pacquiao lost a controversial decision to Timothy Bradley and then was knocked out by Juan Manuel Marquez.

Top welterweights that are with Top Rank are essentially shut out of a shot. Top junior welterweights with Golden Boy, including Danny Garcia and Amir Khan, are not going to be served up to Mayweather just yet, not while they are being built up and groomed for stardom.

Mayweather doesn't have to face bigger men either, not when his legacy is already secure. The guaranteed money from the Showtime deal means he also does not have to commit to anyone. This became quite evident when Canelo Alvarez opted not to fight underneath Mayweather-Guerrero. Alvarez refused to settle for a supporting role when Mayweather would not promise that the undercard appearance would be a trade-off for a September showdown between the most popular boxers of the U.S. and Mexico.

Of course, Mayweather still needs to get by Guerrero in what will be Floyd's first fight in almost exactly a year.

Mayweather is 36 now, hasn't fought since getting out of jail, and we haven't yet seen whether aging and his incarceration have taken a toll on him. He has always been in supreme shape; the zero that still sits in his loss column only underscores the fact that no one, not even Father Time, has beaten him.

Will he use this six-fight deal with Showtime to go out with a bang, facing capable challengers in their prime and placing an exclamation point on his claim to greatness? Or will the matchmaking ensure that he goes out on top, still undefeated, with opponents that he will prove ineffective — that is, ineffective at anything beyond lining his pockets and padding his record? ■

Bernard Hopkins had another I-told-you-so moment after he fairly convincingly outpointed a fighter 17 years his junior.
Image: Elsa-Getty

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FANS IN HIGH PLACES?

By: **Thomas Hauser**

Has a sitting President of the United States ever attended a professional fight? I don't know for certain, but I don't think so.

Presidents have attended baseball games since the early years of the 20th century. Many of them enjoyed football. And Barack Obama has taken in a basketball game or two.

As for boxing, Franklin Roosevelt felt Joe Louis' biceps prior to Louis-Schmeling II and told The Brown Bomber, "We need muscles like yours to beat Germany." But Roosevelt didn't go to the fight.

Dwight Eisenhower invited Rocky Marciano to the White House, looked the heavyweight champion over, and noted, "Somehow I thought you'd be bigger."

"No, sir," Marciano responded.

But Eisenhower never saw Marciano fight.

And Gerald Ford invited Muhammad Ali to the White House after The Greatest dethroned George Foreman in Zaire.

"When I took office," Ford told me while I was researching *Muhammad* Ali: His Life and Times, "we as a nation were pretty much torn apart.

Image: THE RING

U.S. presidents, including Dwight Eisenhower (pictured during World War II), have shown interest in boxing but have any actually been to a fight?

QUICK QUIZ

1. One of boxing's better known champions beat Henry Armstrong, Charley Burley and Jake LaMotta, but lost 65 times. Who was it?

2. Four southpaws have held pieces of the heavyweight crown. Name them.

3. Only two men fought each other for the heavyweight championship three times. Who were they?

There were conflicts between families, in colleges, and on the streets. We'd gone through some serious race problems; the Vietnam War had heightened differences; and, of course, there was the heritage of Watergate. One of the major challenges my administration faced was how we could heal the country. Not that everybody had to agree, but at least we should lower our voices and listen to one another. Having Muhammad Ali come to the Oval Office was part of our overall effort. I felt it was important to reach out and indicate individually as well as collectively that we could have honest differences without bitterness."

"Besides," Ford added. "I'd always wanted to meet Muhammad Ali."

But none of the above presidents attended a pro fight while in office. And I don't think they did afterward either.

Theodore Roosevelt, who became president when William McKinley was assassinated, was a boxing enthusiast. He boxed while a student at Harvard and later maintained a friendship with John L. Sullivan. But I'm not aware of his attending a pro fight while in office.

And, of course, there were many years when boxing was in disrepute in America and illegal in most states.

Am I wrong? Did a sitting or past president ever attend a pro fight? If anyone has information to the contrary, let me know.

In his heyday, Iran Barkley guaranteed a war every time out. "The Blade" fought like Arturo Gatti but with less finesse. A lot of fighters being groomed for stardom – James Kinchen, Michael Olajide, and Darrin Van Horn, to name a few – were derailed by his fists. And there were wars with the likes of Roberto Duran, James Toney, Michael Nunn, Nigel Benn, Robbie Sims, Wilford Scypion, Mike Tinley and Sanderline Williams.

"(Top Rank matchmaker) Teddy Brenner matched me tough every time out," Barkley said. "Teddy Brenner didn't make fights; he made wars. If Teddy Brenner was alive today, a lot more fighters would be punch drunk."

The high point of Barkley's career came on June 6, 1988, when he challenged Thomas Hearns for the WBC middleweight crown. Bleeding badly from a cut above his left eye, Iran launched a desperation right uppercut in Round 3 and knocked out Hearns.

"I wasn't supposed to win that fight," Barkley says. "Nobody gave me a chance except me and my mother. The fight was all about Tommy. But as far as I was concerned, it was all about me. Tommy had experience, but I had experience, too. Tommy had a big punch, but I had a big punch, too. When I won, it upset a lot of people. Bob Arum [who promoted both fighters] didn't pat me on the back and say 'great fight.' I had to pay for my own victory party. People said afterward that it was a lucky punch, but there's no such thing in boxing. And to prove it, I beat Tommy on a de-

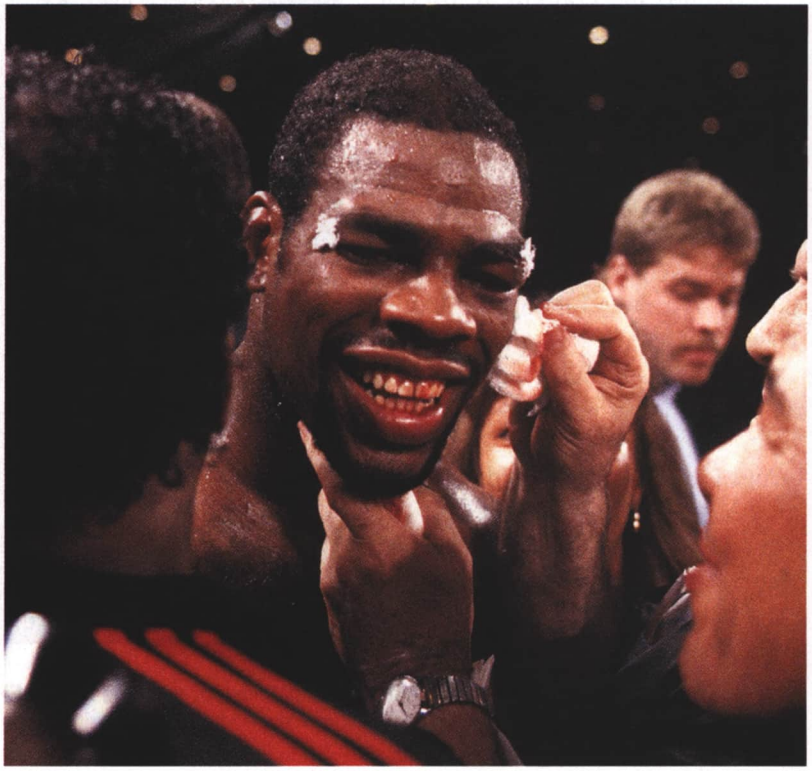


Image: THE RING

The highlight of three-time titleholder Iran Barkley's fine career was his stunning third-round knockout of Hall of Famer Thomas Hearns in 1988.

cision when we fought again (in 1992)."

Barkley is 52 years old now. His career ended on six straight losses, the last of which was 14 years ago.

"I'm still hoping I can get a big money fight," Iran said. "But no one wants to fight me. Maybe me and Tommy can do it again."

.....

Boxing has traditionally been a young man's game. John L. Sullivan won the world bare-knuckle heavyweight championship at age 23 and the first gloved crown three years later. James J. Corbett was six days past his 26th birthday when he toppled Sullivan in 1892.

Bob Fitzsimmons broke the mold.

"I am 34 years of age now," Fitzsimmons acknowledged before meeting Corbett in the ring on March 17, 1897. "And I don't think I am as vicious as I used to be. I don't have the same thrill now when I see a man sinking to the floor. I hate to smash a man and see him bleed. My only desire is to put it on his chin and knock him hard enough to lay him out for a little more than 10 seconds."

That said, there was still bad blood between Fitzsimmons and Corbett before they fought.

"I read in the papers that Mr. Corbett intends to give me the worst licking I ever got in my life," Fitzsimmons declared. "Notwithstanding his enormous output of braggadocio, I will be in the ring to receive all he can give to me. Many believe him invincible. I do not. Corbett, heretofore, has fought men who are my inferiors as fighters. And I believe no one knows it better than Corbett himself."

When the hour of reckoning came, the champion dominated the early going. But Fitzsimmons survived and, in Round 14, scored a brutal one-punch knockout with what has been memorialized in boxing lore as Ruby Robert's left hook to Gentleman Jim's solar plexus.

"I can't believe it," Corbett said in the ring afterward. "I am defeated. How can it be?"

Decades later, in his 1925 autobiography, Corbett elaborated on his loss to Fitzsimmons and observed, "My hat is off to anyone who reaches the top. It will always be a struggle, taking ambition and courage and will power to win. It is for these things that the prize ring, with all the brutality and faults that go with it, still is of importance in life." And he added poignantly at the close of his book, "The roar of the crowd is no longer for me. I am one of them."

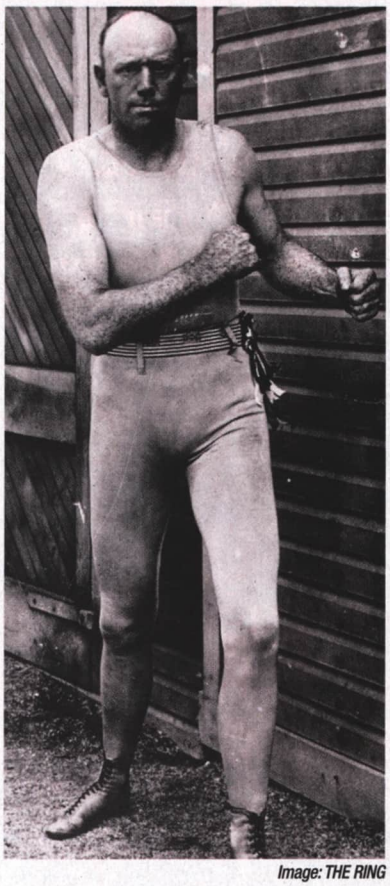


Image: THE RING

Bob Fitzsimmons became the first aging fighter to make heavyweight history when, at 34, he stopped James J. Corbett with a body blow.

QUIZ ANSWERS:

1. Fritzie Zivic, who ended his career with a record of 155 wins, 65 losses and 10 draws.

2. Michael Moorer, Chris Byrd, Corrie Sanders, and Ruslan Chagaev were all southpaws.

3. Floyd Patterson and Ingemar Johansson squared off for the heavyweight title in 1959, 1960, and 1961. What about Muhammad Ali and Joe Frazier? When they fought for the second time, George Foreman was heavyweight champion. As for Evander Holyfield and Riddick Bowe, when they met for the third time, George Foreman, once again, was king.

Thomas Hauser can be reached by email at thauser@rcn.com. His most recent book — *And the New ...: An Inside Look at Another Year in Boxing* was published by the University of Arkansas Press.

ADVANCED DEGREES

Degrees of separation between fighters of today and their predecessors. This month: Floyd Mayweather Sr., who fought in the 1970s and '80s, to son Floyd Mayweather Jr.

FLOYD MAYWEATHER SR.
fought …

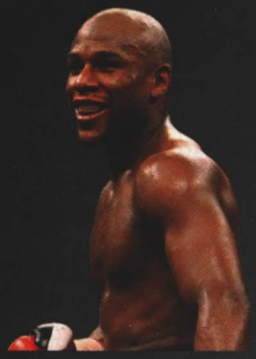
Sugar Ray Leonard, who fought …

Hector Camacho, who fought …

Oscar De La Hoya, who fought …

▼

FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR.

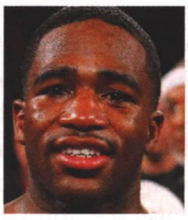


FIGHTERS' FAVORITES

WHAT BOXERS ARE INTO OUTSIDE THE SPORT

>>> ADRIEN BRONER

WBC lightweight titleholder



MUSIC: I like Meek Mill.
CAR: Bugatti.
FOOD: Ribeye steak cooked medium well.
TATTOOS: Several. The one on my forearm is about me, the one on my right arm is my son, the one on my chest is my daughter, the one on my left arm is my other daughter. The one on my rib cage, that's me, "The Problem."
ATHLETE OUTSIDE BOXING: That would have to be LeBron James.
MOVIE: Probably *Harlem Nights.*
VIDEO GAME: I don't play video games.

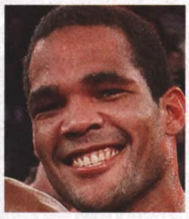
>>> WLADIMIR KLITSCHKO

Heavyweight champion from Ukraine

MUSIC: I like different styles of music depending on the situation and my mood. My favorite band and good friends of mine are the Red Hot Chili Peppers, (who I've seen in concert a lot) already.
CAR: I am driving a Mercedes Benz GL. It is one of the few cars that I fit in comfortably (being) 6-foot-6½.
FOOD: Most important is a healthy diet which gives your body all that it needs. I like steak with fresh vegetables and salad. During training camp I also enjoy having a good BBQ.
TATTOO: No tattoos.
ATHLETE OUTSIDE BOXING: Roger Federer is a true gentleman and a perfect role model both as a sportsman and a person. It is amazing for how long he is top of the world in tennis.
MOVIE: *Rocky.* It is a great film which is not only about sport but also a love story. From the *Rocky* movie everyone can learn that you have to stick with your dreams, work hard and you will finally succeed. With our friend Sylvester Stallone, Vitali, myself and Stage Entertainment produce *Rocky: The Musical,* which is staged in Hamburg, Germany, and had its very successful world premiere last November.
VIDEO GAME: I very much enjoy playing video games with Vitali's kids. We prefer sport games and quizzes, and it is very hard to beat them.

>>> YOAN PABLO HERNANDEZ

RING and IBF cruiserweight titleholder from Cuba



MUSIC: Wisin Y Yandel, as I love reggaeton.
CAR: Good old-fashioned Mustang Shelby '67.
FOOD: I eat everything my wife serves me.
TATTOOS: I have a dog tattooed on my left shoulder, as I love dogs. When I was living in Cuba, I owned some.
ATHLETE OUTSIDE BOXING: None.
MOVIE: None specific, but I like action-movies.
VIDEO GAME: I play strategy games.

Images: Getty, Bongarts, Naoki Fukuda

GOOD, BAD, WORSE

THE BEST AND WORST IN BOXING FROM THE PAST MONTH

By: **Michael Rosenthal**

GOOD

A lot of boxers become emotional when they win their first world title. Ishe Smith took it to new level after taking Cornelius Bundrage's IBF junior middleweight belt by a majority decision Feb. 23 in Detroit. He could barely get words out between sobs in his post-fight interview. And no wonder. It wasn't long ago that Smith had all but given up on his career and life; he considered suicide. To bounce back from that to realize his dream 13 years after turning pro was difficult for him to wrap his head around. The fight was ugly. Neither fighter was particularly impressive. Who cares, though? The story was Smith, who reached the highest high after enduring the lowest low not long ago. You have to happy for him.

BAD

I'm not sure whether HBO's decision to sever ties with Golden Boy Promotions is good, bad, worse or all of the above. We'll see. My gut feeling is that it isn't good. Golden Boy (with ties to Showtime) and Top Rank (HBO) would be moving toward one another in a perfect world, not away. Only then could the best fight the best on a large scale. But some good could come out of the strange decision, which followed the defection of Floyd Mayweather Jr. and other fighters from HBO to its rival. Younger, hungrier fighters might inject life into the sport if they get opportunities to fill any vacuums on premium cable. And the pressure will be on the competing networks more than ever to deliver competitive fights. Stay tuned.

WORSE

Those in the media and fans had the right to express their outrage after the judges awarded Timothy Bradley a controversial decision over Manny Pacquiao in June 2012. It was a bad decision. That said, Bradley didn't deserve what followed. The worst was ... get this ... death threats. Death threats? Really? Over a boxing match? Bradley by all accounts is a wonderful person. He has a wife and kids. And he wasn't one of the judges. He simply fought his heart out. My colleagues and I are used to those who take nasty – and typically nonsensical – shots at us and those in the boxing business. But death threats? To all those who would stoop so low: Stop for a second and think before you cross the line into lunacy.

10 A MONTHLY BOXING LIST

THIS MONTH: Boxers who have fought in four decades (in chronological order).

BOB FITZSIMMONS – 1880s-1910s
ARCHIE MOORE – 1930s-1960s
ROBERTO DURAN – 1960s-2000s (five decades)
GEORGE FOREMAN – 1960s-1990s
JERRY QUARRY – 1960s-1990s
EARNIE SHAVERS – 1960s-1990s
LARRY HOLMES –1970s-2000s
EVANDER HOLYFIELD – 1980s-2010s
BERNARD HOPKINS – 1980s-2010s
HECTOR CAMACHO – 1980s-2010s

RING POLL

A MONTHLY POLL OF OUR RINGTV.COM READERS.

Bernard Hopkins made history by taking Tavoris Cloud's light heavyweight belt on March 9, the second time he became the oldest man ever to win a major title. Has any geezer topped that accomplishment? A plurality of fans say "no." We asked: **What was the greatest feat by an aging fighter?** Here are the results.

THE PERCENTAGES:

BERNARD HOPKINS WINNING WORLD LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT TITLES AT 46 AND 48	**34.4**
JUAN MANUEL MARQUEZ STOPPING MANNY PACQUIAO WITH ONE PUNCH AT 39	**27.6**
GEORGE FOREMAN STOPPING MICHAEL MOORER TO WIN THE HEAVYWEIGHT TITLE AT 45	**20.6**
ARCHIE MOORE COMPILING A RECORD OF 48-4-2 (8-2 IN TITLE FIGHTS) AFTER TURNING 40	**14.2**
JERSEY JOE WALCOTT TAKING THE HEAVYWEIGHT CROWN FROM THE GREAT EZZARD CHARLES AT 37 AND 21 YEARS INTO HIS CAREER	**1.5**
LARRY HOLMES HANDING FORMER TITLEHOLDER RAY MERCER HIS FIRST LOSS WHEN HE WAS 42	**1.1**
BOB FITZSIMMONS WINNING THE LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT TITLE AT 39 AFTER HIS HEAVYWEIGHT REIGN	**0.6**

NOTE: 3,689 READERS VOTED IN THE POLL.

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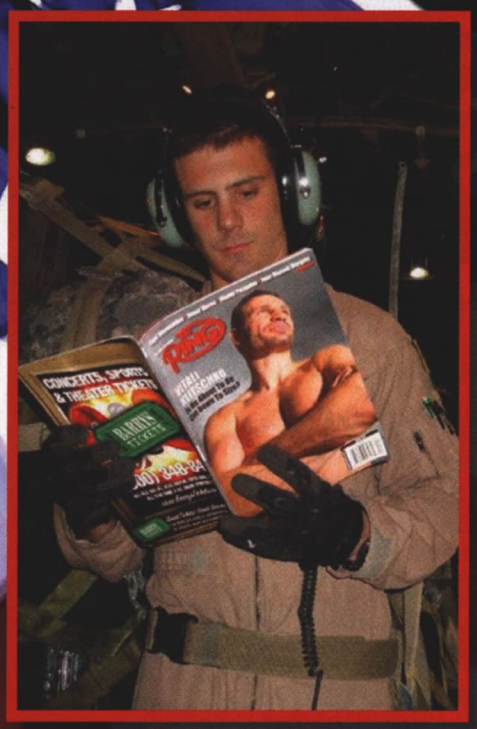

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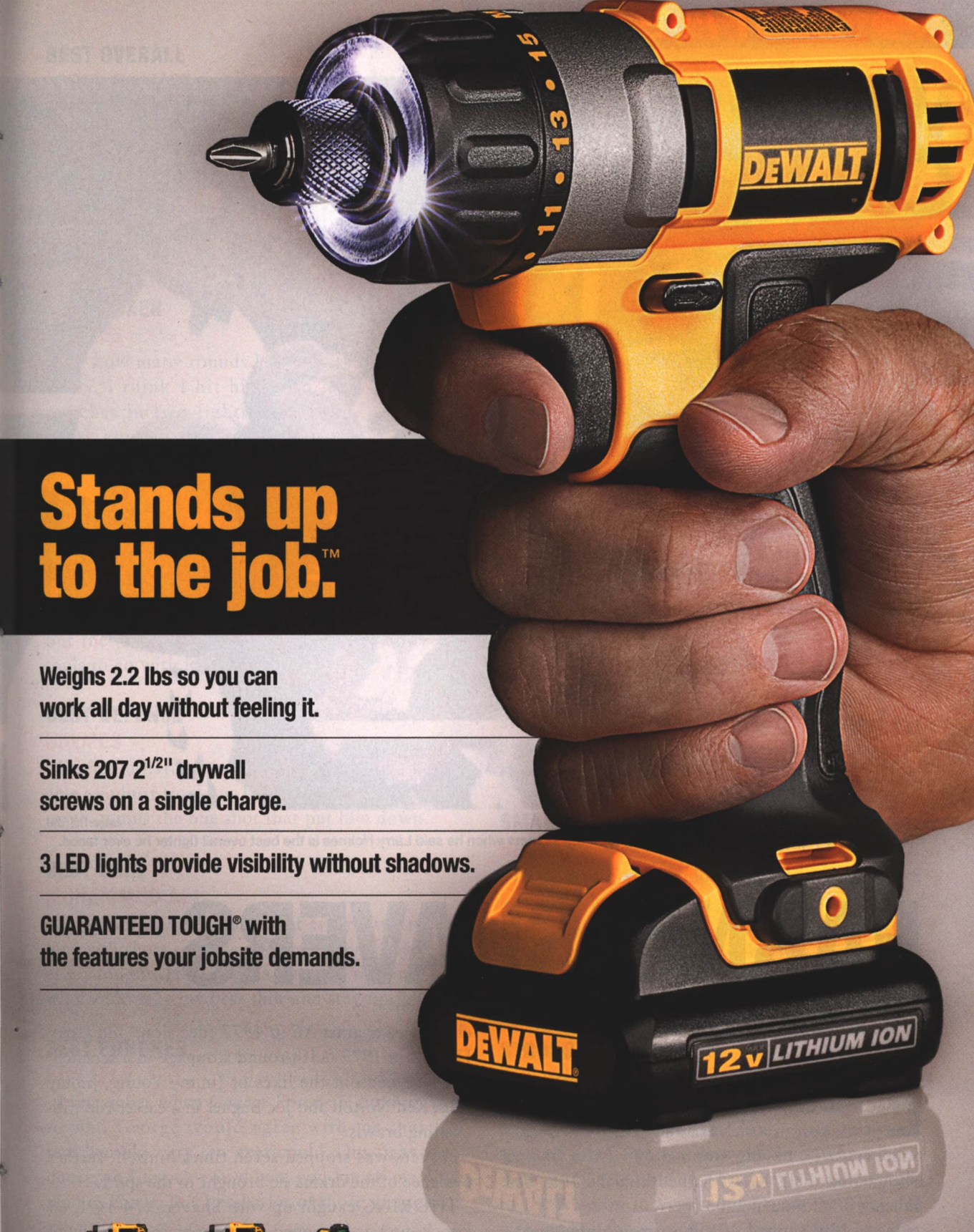

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Image: THE RING

Earnie Shavers (right) could've been speaking for many fighters when he said Larry Holmes is the best overall fighter he ever faced.

EARNIE SHAVERS

By: **Mark Ortega**

Earnie Shavers wasn't a great heavyweight – he lost his only two title fights – but he was one of the best in a rich era and one of the biggest punchers ever, having stopped 68 of the 74 men he defeated. THE RING named him the 10th best puncher of all time in 2003.

One of Muhammad Ali's most memorable quotes applied to Shavers: "Earnie hit me so hard, he shook my kinfolk back in Africa."

The bald-headed slugger fought a who's who among heavyweights in the 1970s and '80s, losing title challenges against Ali in 1977 (decision) and Larry Holmes in 1979 (11th-round stoppage in a rematch) but knocked out the likes of Jimmy Young, Jimmy Ellis, Ken Norton and Joe Bugner in a career rife with exciting brawls.

Shavers was stopped seven times himself, further evidence of the drama he brought to the sport.

THE RING caught up with Shavers (74-14-1, 68 knockouts) as he signed autographs in the lobby of the MGM Grand Hotel the week of the fourth fight between Manny Pacquiao and Juan Manuel Marquez.

These fighters are the best he faced in 10 key categories.

BEST OVERALL
LARRY HOLMES

He had a great thing going. At his best I don't know if there is any heavyweight out there who could beat him. Even when he got older he was still trouble for the second-tier guys, but in his prime he was a thing to behold.

BEST BOXER
HOLMES

For how many rounds I went with Larry, I think I hit him with less punches in two fights than I did many guys in two rounds. I just remember being in awe of his skills.

Image: THE RING

Shavers said Muhammad Ali had the best chin and the fastest hands of any fighter he faced. Ali outpointed Shavers in 1977.

BEST JAB
HOLMES

Maybe the best jab of any heavyweight that ever fought, maybe of any fighter that ever laced up a pair of gloves. Larry could win a fight with nothing but the jab, but luckily he had many other fine tools to go with it.

BEST DEFENSE
HOLMES

He had a hard defense to penetrate, and he was able to adjust from our first fight and not get hit as much, minus the one shot that put him down.

BEST CHIN
MUHAMMUD ALI

I watch the DVD of our fight every day, and I hit him with shots that knocked out almost everybody else I fought. Him and Larry were the only guys who could take my best shot and stay upright.

BEST PUNCHER
RON LYLE

I remember when George Foreman and him went to war. George would agree with me that Ron punched like very few ever could. Our fight was a doozy, an I-knock-you-down, you-knock-me-down kind of battle. But I had a lot of those. (Laughs.)

FASTEST HANDS
ALI

He still had the fast hands by the time we fought in '77, and he was able to hit me with punches I barely saw coming. Even late in his career his hand speed gave everybody trouble.

FASTEST FEET
JAMES "QUICK" TILLIS

He reminded me of Ali and really could move around well. Even though I fought him when I was a bit more up there in age, I think he had faster feet than even Larry or Ali.

SMARTEST
HOLMES

Larry was a very good fighter. I hit Larry with one of the hardest shots I ever threw, knocked him down, and he told me hitting the ground woke him up and then he got mad. He was an extremely intelligent fighter and improved on our first fight and was able to stop me in the second match.

STRONGEST
ROY "TIGER" WILLIAMS

In order to fight Ali, Muhammad said I had to fight Roy "Tiger" Williams first. Originally they wanted us to fight in Pennsylvania, where he is from, and I said no way. Then they moved the fight to the Aladdin in Vegas and I took the fight. He was my toughest opponent and a tough out for anybody during that time. I knocked him out 30 seconds before the fight was over. In the 10th round he dropped me and I came back and stopped him, but not without being dazed.

THE BREAKUP, PART 2

By: **Brian Harty**

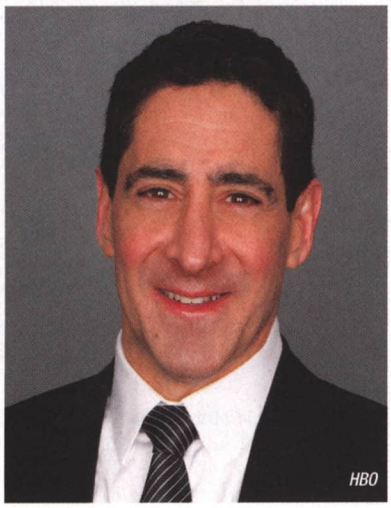
HBO losing Floyd Mayweather Jr. to Showtime in February was akin to being on the best date of your life when suddenly, while at a stoplight, your sweetheart climbs into the car beside you and drives off. One would expect anyone in that situation to feel a little annoyed.

As such, some in the boxing world wondered if it was an act of simple retaliation when HBO announced in March that it would no longer do business with Golden Boy Promotions, which has been Mayweather's partner for his past several fights.

The move severed a relationship that was instrumental to the creation of Golden Boy itself, with Oscar De La Hoya having fought as the favored son of HBO during his time. Many Golden Boy fighters made their names on HBO – Saul Alvarez, Danny Garcia, Victor Ortiz, Amir Khan, and, very significantly, Adrien Broner, who had until recently been referring to himself as "Mr. HBO Boxing."

A major shift occurred, however, in late 2011 when Showtime boxing czar Ken Hershman left for his current job as President of HBO Sports and was replaced by former Golden Boy attorney Stephen Espinoza. The promoters and networks began to align, with Showtime spending more time around Golden Boy and rival company Top Rank cozying up to HBO.

The galvanizing moment may have come on Sept. 15, 2012, when failed negotiations to feature Alvarez on HBO led to dueling Las Vegas fight cards: Alvarez vs. Josesito Lopez at the MGM Grand on



KEN HERSHMAN

Showtime and Sergio Martinez vs. Julio Cesar Chavez at Thomas & Mack Center on HBO. Khan and Garcia soon afterward made their own jumps to Showtime.

And then came the real shocker. Mayweather, the crown jewel, announced his multi-fight deal with the "other" network, thus ending a romance with HBO that ran even deeper than De La Hoya's.

Hershman's statement read, "In order to achieve our goal of the best fighters, in the most compelling matchups, we've decided to focus our efforts and resources on those strategic relationships where we better share common goals in business philosophy."

That can either be read as the bland example of Business Speak 101 that it is or as HBO-ese for "Now it's on." Top Rank's Bob Arum seemed to confirm the latter: "Anybody can ask Showtime how come no other promoters promote fights [on Showtime] other than Golden Boy," Arum told Boxingscene.com. "Showtime will say, 'Oh, that's not true ... blah, blah, blah. ... HBO came out and said whatever their policy is. They announced it, and that's that."

Golden Boy CEO Richard Schaefer believes HBO made a mistake.

"Obviously, HBO is upset at advisor Al Haymon and at me, and this is their way of getting back at us," he said. "I think that it is an ill-advised strategy, because the only ones who are getting hurt are the HBO subscribers, which were used to seeing the best fighters fighting on HBO, but that, obviously, will no longer be the case."

So with the boxing landscape looking more and more like a game of Risk these days, the real question is what these "strategic relationships" will mean for the fans.

Broner's next fight is already headed to Showtime, which is convenient for his opponent, Paulie Malignaggi, who is employed as a TV analyst there. And Schaefer is correct in saying he has the deeper stable for other fights. But that might only be in terms of names people recognize today.

The split with HBO not only clears the airways for more Top Rank fighters but also for other promotional companies with talent to push. With HBO's proven taste for boxing and even more proven resources, the longer-term result could be a whole new set of faces. The danger for Golden Boy may be in becoming too incestuous, with "star building" taking precedence over quality matchmaking.

In the short term, especially with Mayweather in the driver's seat and Broner as its new hood ornament, Showtime looks to be the flashiest hot-rod on the block. Let's just hope it doesn't break down from the weight of too many free rides. ■

HARSH PUNISHMENT

By: **Brian Harty**

Julio Cesar Chavez Jr. was slapped by the Nevada State Athletic Commission to the tune of $900,000 for his positive marijuana test after the **Sergio Martinez** fight last September.

The fine, which amounted to 30 percent of Chavez's purse and numberwise reportedly was second only to what **Mike Tyson** got for munching **Evander Holyfield**'s ear, was extra severe because of Chavez's previous record of testing positive for a banned diuretic, according to the NSAC.

Top Rank CEO **Bob Arum** called the penalty unconstitutional. WBC president **Jose Sulaiman** vowed to fight it. The decision made Chavez something of a hero on weed-related websites, though, and his case became a cause célèbre for policy reform. ...

Image: Naoki Fukuda

Julio Cesar Chavez Jr. took it on the nose when Nevada fined him $900,000 for testing positive for marijuana.

In other druggie news, **Sam Soliman**'s fluids came back positive for an illegal stimulant called oxilofrine after he defeated **Felix Sturm** in early February. The results of his B-sample had yet to be announced at press time.

Meanwhile, former English junior bantamweight titleholder **John Donnelly** was banned for two years after testing positive for cocaine. ...

Maxie "Little Duke" Docusen turned pro at age 16 in 1944 and fought 86 times, with only six losses, over the ensuing decade before working as a judge and referee until 1983. He shared the ring with men like **Enrique Bolanos, Manuel Ortiz, Joey Barnum** and **John L. Davis**, and in 1949 was the top-ranked lightweight in the sport. He died on Feb. 28 near his hometown of New Orleans. ...

Former welterweight **Tony Martin**, 52, was collecting rent at one of his properties in Philadelphia when he got into an argument with an unknown person and was fatally shot. Martin beat **Micky Ward** and **Livingstone Bramble** during his 34-6-1 (12 KOs) career, concluding it with a decision loss to **Julio Cesar Chavez** in 1997. ...

How many seats can you fit between New York and Monte Carlo? 20,000, according to **MGM** Resorts and entertainment giant AEG officials, who are planning to build a new arena between the two hotels on the Las Vegas strip. The venue will host boxing as well as concerts and other events. ...

After losing his English junior welterweight title on March 8, **Curtis Woodhouse** became the target of a Twitter troll calling himself The Master. Woodhouse got fed up with being called "a complete disgrace" and offered £1,000 for his tormentor's address, which someone gave him within five minutes. Woodhouse promptly showed up on his doorstep. This led to a televised meeting between the boxer and The Master (**James O'Brien**, 24), who apologized. ...

At the final press conference before the Hopkins-Cloud fight, promoter **Don King** proposed a prebout 10-count to honor the late **Hugo Chavez**, who was most familiar to the boxing world as that guy **Edwin Valero** had tattooed on his chest but otherwise known as the President of Venezuela.

King said he considered Chavez a friend, which isn't hard to believe given their shared penchant for neverending speeches, but is strange considering Chavez's habit of blasting the U.S. for its cancerous capitalism and being the bastion of all that is corrupt in the world – presumably the two things King loves most about it. In any case, the 10-count didn't happen. ■

BY HEATHER SHANHOLTZ

GEILA ZANARDI

Image: Dave Alan

HEIGHT: 5-foot-6
WEIGHT: 120 pounds
MEASUREMENTS: 36-27-36
STANCE: Orthodox
FAVORITE BOXER: Manny Pacquiao
HOMETOWN: Floripa, Brazil
CURRENT LOCATION: New York
BOOKING INFO: geilausa@hotmail.com

Image: Dave Alan

GEILA ZANARDI

Image: **Dave Alan**

THE RING CARD GIRL OF THE MONTH BY: **HEATHER SHANHOLTZ**

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Image: Tom Hogan-Hoganphotos

Bernard Hopkins (right) confounded those prepared to write him off once again when he outpointed Tavoris Cloud.

FIGHTER OF THE MONTH

BERNARD HOPKINS

By: **Michael Rosenthal**

Who else?

Some people might've thought that Bernard Hopkins was beginning his inevitable decline when he lost back-to-back fights to Jermain Taylor in 2005. After all, he was an ancient 40-year-old at the time.

The amazing one is 7-2-1 (with one no-contest) since, including a pair of victories that allowed him to become the oldest ever to win a world title.

The latest triumph was a convincing victory over then-IBF light heavyweight champ Tavoris Cloud on March 9 in Brooklyn, N.Y., which improved the 48-year-old's record in title fights to 22-4-2 (with one no-contest).

Cloud, 17 years Hopkins' junior, was strong and game but it takes more than that to beat this old man. Hopkins used his not-so-secret weapon – his amazing pugilistic mind – to box his way to a unanimous-decision victory and write another chapter in his remarkable story.

Of course, another element to Hopkins' success is his conditioning. He puts virtually nothing in his body that would compromise his ability to win fights. That's why one of his post-fight comments was so amusing.

"It feels good. It feels real good," Hopkins said, according to The Associated Press. "I'm going to Junior's (Restaurant and) I'm going to have cheesecake."

We hope you enjoyed, Bernard. You certainly earned it. ■

POUND FOR POUND: Tim Bradley (No. 9 last month) turned in a redemptive performance but struggled against unrated welterweight Ruslan Provodnikov. Bradley swapped places with No. 10 Robert Guerrero as a result.

HEAVYWEIGHTS: Chris Arreola (No. 9 last month) was dropped from the list for inactivity. That lifted No. 10 Tyson Fury up a spot and created a vacancy for Tony Thompson, who had upset the apple cart the week before by knocking out British favorite David Price.

CRUISERWEIGHTS: No change.

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS: Top-rated Bernard Hopkins' victory over Tavoris Cloud (No. 2 at the time) was significant, but there was nowhere for him to go in the ratings. Cloud, on the other hand, dropped to No. 5, elevating Nathan Cleverly, Beibut Shumenov and Sergei Kovalev to Nos. 2-4, respectively.

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS: No change.

MIDDLEWEIGHTS: No change.

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS: Ishe Smith (unrated last month) finally claimed a title with his split-decision victory over Cornelius Bundrage (No. 9 at the time). The fight wasn't pretty but it got Smith into the ratings at No. 10 while Bundrage dropped out.

WELTERWEIGHTS: Jan Zaveck (No. 7 last month) fell out of the ratings after losing a shutout decision to rising contender Keith Thurman, who entered the ratings at No. 10.

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS: Lamont Peterson returned to the ring with an eighth-round TKO of Kendall Holt (unrated) and returned to the ratings at No. 3, thus pushing everyone below down a notch and bumping Dierry Jean (No. 10 last month) off the list.

LIGHTWEIGHTS: Richar "It's not a typo" Abril (No. 5 last month) wrestled his way to a unanimous decision over previously undefeated Sharif Bogere, who kept his No. 7 spot. Abril rose to No. 4 while Antonio DeMarco fell to No. 5 from the No. 3 position, which was then filled by Ricky Burns (No. 4 last month).

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS: Argenis Mendez (No. 7 last month) stopped Juan Carlos Salgado (No. 2 last month) in the fourth round of their rematch. Thus, Mendez rose to No. 3 and Salgado fell to No. 7, which allowed Yuriorkis Gamboa to climb a notch to No. 2.

FEATHERWEIGHTS: No. 4 Billy Dib was upset by unrated Evgeny "The Mexican Russian" Gradovich by a split decision in Connecticut. Dib dropped to No. 8, just below Gradovich, and Thai fighter Chonlatarn Piriyapinyo (No. 10 last month) was pushed out of the ratings.

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS: No change.

BANTAMWEIGHTS: Young veteran Pungluang Sor Singyu (No. 7 last month) hopped a flight to Namibia and lost a unanimous decision to undefeated resident Paulus Ambunda, who replaced Sor Singyu in the ratings.

JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHTS: No change.

FLYWEIGHTS: Juan Carlos Reveco (No. 7 last month) successfully defended his title against No. 6-rated 108-pounder Masayuki Kuroda with a convincing UD in Japan. Reveco gained a rank, switching places with Rocky Fuentes (No. 6 last month). Then, in Mexico, Edgar Sosa (No. 8 last month) knocked out Ulises Solis (No. 5 junior flyweight at the time) in one round and also switched with Fuentes. The final order: Reveco No. 6, Sosa No. 7 and Fuentes No. 8.

JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS: Kuroda was dropped due to the Reveco loss and other recent shaky performances. No. 2-rated Donnie Nietes maintained his spot after fighting to a draw against Moises Fuentes, who left his perch atop the strawweight ratings to enter at No. 3. Solis was dropped, moving everyone below upward and allowing Panamanian Luis Alberto Rios to enter at No. 10. Rios' tenure ended a week later when he lost a lopsided decision to Johnriel Casimero (No. 7 last month) in Panama. Casimero climbed to No. 6 and Rios was replaced by undefeated Nicaraguan Felix Alvarado.

STRAWWEIGHTS: With the departure of Nietes, everyone moved up a spot and Mexican Jesus Silvestre took the No. 10 vacancy. The new No. 1, Raul Garcia, was then dropped because he hasn't fought at 105 since August 2011. Thus, everyone moved up again. Denver Cuello (No. 3 last month) assumed the top spot and undefeated Filipino Merlito Sabillo became the new No. 10.

Tony Thompson, 41, earned a spot in the ratings by stopping then-unbeaten prospect David Price in the second round.
Image Alex Livesay-Getty

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HEAVYWEIGHTS
WEIGHT UNLIMITED

- C **WLADIMIR KLITSCHKO** Ukraine | 59-3-0 (50 KOs)
- 1. **VITALI KLITSCHKO** Ukraine | 45-2-0 (41 KOs)
- 2. **ALEXANDER POVETKIN** Russia | 25-0-0 (17 KOs)
- 3. **DAVID HAYE** UK | 26-2-0 (24 KOs)
- 4. **KUBRAT PULEV** Bulgaria | 17-0-0 (9 KOs)
- 5. **TOMASZ ADAMEK** Poland | 48-2-0 (29 KOs)
- 6. **ROBERT HELENIUS** Finland | 18-0-0 (11 KOs)
- 7. **RUSLAN CHAGAEV** Uzbekistan | 30-2-1 (19 KOs)
- 8. **DENIS BOYTSOV** Russia | 32-0-0 (25 KOs)
- 9. **TYSON FURY** U.K. | 20-0-0 (14 KOs)
- 10. **TONY THOMPSON** U.S. | 37-3-0 (25 KOs)

CRUISERWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 200 LBS

- C **YOAN PABLO HERNANDEZ** Cuba | 27-1-0 (13 KOs)
- 1. **MARCO HUCK** Germany | 35-2-1 (25 KOs)
- 2. **KRZYSZTOF WLODARCZYK** Poland | 47-2-1 (33 KOs)
- 3. **OLA AFOLABI** U.K. | 19-2-4 (9 KOs)
- 4. **DENIS LEBEDEV** Russia | 25-1-0 (19 KOs)
- 5. **LATEEF KAYODE** Nigeria | 18-0-0 (14 KOs)
- 6. **MATEUSZ MASTERNAK** Poland | 29-0-0 (21 KOs)
- 7. **TROY ROSS** Canada | 25-3-0 (16 KOs)
- 8. **FIRAT ARSLAN** Germany | 32-6-2 (21 KOs)
- 9. **DMYTRO KUCHER** Ukraine | 20-0-0 (15 KOs)
- 10. **RAKHIM CHAKHKIEV** Russia | 16-0-0 (12 KOs)

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 175 LBS

- C **CHAD DAWSON** U.S. | 31-2-0 (17 KOs)
- 1. **BERNARD HOPKINS** U.S. | 53-6-2 (32 KOs)
- 2. **NATHAN CLEVERLY** U.K. | 25-0-0 (12 KOs)
- 3. **BEIBUT SHUMENOV** Kazakhstan | 13-1-0 (8 KOs)
- 4. **SERGEI KOVALEV** Russia | 20-0-1 (18 KOs)
- 5. **TAVORIS CLOUD** U.S. | 24-1-0 (19 KOs)
- 6. **KARO MURAT** Germany | 25-1-1 (15 KOs)
- 7. **ISAAC CHILEMBA** Malawi | 19-1-1 (9 KOs)
- 8. **JUERGEN BRAEHMER** Germany | 38-2-0 (30 KOs)
- 9. **GABRIEL CAMPILLO** Spain | 21-5-1 (8 KOs)
- 10. **TONY BELLEW** U.K. | 19-1-0 (12 KOs)

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 168 LBS

- C **ANDRE WARD** U.S. | 26-0-0 (14 KOs)
- 1. **CARL FROCH** U.K. | 30-2-0 (22 KOs)
- 2. **MIKKEL KESSLER** Denmark | 46-2-0 (35 KOs)
- 3. **LUCIAN BUTE** Romania | 31-1-0 (24 KOs)
- 4. **THOMAS OOSTHUIZEN** South Africa | 21-0-1 (13 KOs)
- 5. **ARTHUR ABRAHAM** Armenia | 36-3-0 (28 KOs)
- 6. **ROBERT STIEGLITZ** Russia | 43-3-0 (24 KOs)
- 7. **GEORGE GROVES** U.K. | 17-0-0 (13 KOs)
- 8. **SAKIO BIKA** Camaroon | 31-5-2 (21 KOs)
- 9. **ADONIS STEVENSON** Canada | 19-1-0 (16 KOs)
- 10. **EDWIN RODRIGUEZ** Dominican Rep. | 22-0-0 (15 KOs)

RING RATINGS

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 160 LBS

C **SERGIO MARTINEZ**
Argentina | 50-2-2 (28 KOs)

1. **DANIEL GEALE**
Australia | 28-1-0 (15 KOs)
2. **GENNADY GOLOVKIN**
Kazakhstan | 25-0-0 (22 KOs)
3. **JULIO CESAR CHAVEZ JR.**
Mexico | 46-1-1 (32 KOs)
4. **DMITRY PIROG**
Russia | 20-0-0 (15 KOs)
5. **MATTHEW MACKLIN**
U.K. | 29-4-0 (20 KOs)
6. **PETER QUILLIN**
U.S. | 28-0-0 (20 KOs)
7. **MARTIN MURRAY**
U.K. | 25-0-1 (11 KOs)
8. **FELIX STURM**
Germany | 37-4-2 (16 KOs)
9. **HASSAN N'DAM**
France | 27-1-0 (17 KOs)
10. **SAM SOLIMAN**
Australia | 43-11-0 (17 KOs)

JR. MIDDLEWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 154 LBS

C **VACANT**

1. **FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR.**
U.S. | 43-0-0 (26 KOs)
2. **SAUL ALVAREZ**
Mexico | 41-0-1 (30 KOs)
3. **AUSTIN TROUT**
U.S. | 26-0-0 (14 KOs)
4. **MIGUEL COTTO**
Puerto Rico | 37-4-0 (30 KOs)
5. **ERISLANDY LARA**
Cuba | 17-1-2 (11 KOs)
6. **VANES MARTIROSYAN**
U.S. | 32-0-1 (20 KOs)
7. **CARLOS MOLINA**
Mexico | 21-5-2 (6 KOs)
8. **JAMES KIRKLAND**
U.S. | 31-1-0 (27 KOs)
9. **ZAURBEK BAYSANGUROV**
Russia | 28-1-0 (20 KOs)
10. **ISHE SMITH**
U.S. | 25-5-0 (11 KOs)

WELTERWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 147 LBS

C **VACANT**

1. **FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR.**
U.S. | 43-0-0 (26 KOs)
2. **JUAN MANUEL MARQUEZ**
Mexico | 55-6-1 (40 KOs)
3. **ROBERT GUERRERO**
U.S. | 31-1-1 (18 KOs)
4. **MANNY PACQUIAO**
Philippines | 54-5-2 (38 KOs)
5. **KELL BROOK**
UK | 29-0-0 (19 KOs)
6. **PAULIE MALIGNAGGI**
U.S. | 32-4-0 (7 KOs)
7. **TIMOTHY BRADLEY**
U.S. | 30-0-0 (12 KOs)
8. **VICTOR ORTIZ**
U.S. | 29-4-2 (22 KOs)
9. **DEVON ALEXANDER**
U.S. | 24-1-0 (13 KOs)
10. **KEITH THURMAN**
U.S. | 20-0-0 (18 KOs)

JR. WELTERWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 140 LBS

C **DANNY GARCIA**
U.S. | 25-0-0 (16 KOs)

1. **LUCAS MATTHYSSE**
Argentina | 33-2-0 (31 KOs)
2. **AMIR KHAN**
U.K. | 27-3-0 (19 KOs)
3. **LAMONT PETERSON**
U.S. | 31-1-1 (16 KOs)
4. **ZAB JUDAH**
U.S. | 42-7-0 (29 KOs)
5. **JUAN MANUEL MARQUEZ**
Mexico | 55-6-1 (40 KOs)
6. **BRANDON RIOS**
U.S. | 31-0-1 (23 KOs)
7. **KHABIB ALLAKHVERDIEV**
Russia | 18-0-0 (8 KOs)
8. **MIKE ALVARADO**
U.S. | 33-1-0 (23 KOs)
9. **DENIS SHAFIKOV**
Russia | 32-0-1 (17 KOs)
10. **RUSLAN PROVODNIKOV**
Russia | 22-2-0 (15 KOs)

LIGHTWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 135 LBS

C **VACANT**

1. **ADRIEN BRONER**
U.S. | 26-0-0 (22 KOs)
2. **MIGUEL VAZQUEZ**
Mexico | 33-3-0 (13 KOs)
3. **RICKY BURNS**
U.K. | 35-2-0 (10 KOs)
4. **RICHAR ABRIL**
Cuba | 18-3-1 (8 KOs)
5. **ANTONIO DEMARCO**
Mexico | 28-3-1 (21 KOs)
6. **GAVIN REES**
U.K. | 37-2-1 (18 KOs)
7. **SHARIF BOGERE**
Uganda | 23-1-0 (15 KOs)
8. **KEVIN MITCHELL**
U.K. | 33-2-0 (24 KOs)
9. **RAYMUNDO BELTRAN**
Mexico | 27-6-0 (17 KOs)
10. **DANIEL ESTRADA**
Mexico | 30-2-1 (22 KOs)

JR. LIGHTWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 130 LBS

C **VACANT**

1. **TAKASHI UCHIYAMA**
Japan | 19-0-1 (16 KOs)
2. **YURIORKIS GAMBOA**
Cuba | 22-0-0 (16 KOs)
3. **ARGENIS MENDEZ**
Dom. Rep | 21-2-0 (11 KOs)
4. **ROMAN MARTINEZ**
Puerto Rico | 26-1-2 (16 KOs)
5. **JUAN CARLOS BURGOS**
Mexico | 30-1-1 (20 KOs)
6. **DIEGO MAGDALENO**
U.S. | 23-0-0 (9 KOs)
7. **JUAN CARLOS SALGADO**
Mexico | 26-2-1 (16 KOs)
8. **GAMALIEL DIAZ**
Mexico | 37-9-2 (17 KOs)
9. **TAKAHIRO AO**
Japan | 23-3-1 (10 KOs)
10. **SERGIO THOMPSON**
Mexico | 26-2-0 (24 KOs)

FEATHERWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 126 LBS

C **MIKEY GARCIA**
U.S. | 31-0-0 (26 KOs)

1. **CHRIS JOHN**
Indonesia | 48-0-2 (22 KOs)
2. **DANIEL PONCE DE LEON**
Mexico | 44-4-0 (35 KOs)
3. **ORLANDO SALIDO**
Mexico | 39-12-2 (27 KOs)
4. **JHONNY GONZALEZ**
Mexicoa | 53-8-0 (45 KOs)
5. **CELESTINO CABALLERO**
Panama | 36-4-0 (23 KOs)
6. **DAUD YORDAN**
Indonesia | 30-2-0 (23 KOs)
7. **EVGENY GRADOVICH**
Russia | 16-0-0 (8 KOs)
8. **BILLY DIB**
Australia | 35-2-0 (21 KOs)
9. **NICHOLAS WALTERS**
Jamaica | 22-0-0 (18 KOs)
10. **JAVIER FORTUNA**
Dom. Rep. | 21-0-0 (15 KOs)

JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 122 LBS

C **NONITO DONAIRE**
Philippines | 31-1-0 (20 KOs)

1. **GUILLERMO RIGONDEAUX**
Cuba | 11-0-0 (8 KOs)
2. **ABNER MARES**
Mexico | 25-0-1 (13 KOs)
3. **JEFFREY MATHEBULA**
South Africa | 26-4-2 (14 KOs)
4. **ALEXANDER BAKHTIN**
Russia | 30-0-0 (11 KOs)
5. **CARL FRAMPTON**
U.K. | 16-0-0 (11 KOs)
6. **SCOTT QUIGG**
U.K. | 25-0-1 (18 KOs)
7. **VIC DARCHINYAN**
Armenia | 38-5-1 (27 KOs)
8. **HOZUMI HASEGAWA**
Japan | 31-4-0 (13 KOs)
9. **TOMOKI KAMEDA**
Japan | 27-0-0 (18 KOs)
10. **JONATHAN ROMERO**
Colombia | 23-0-0 (12 KOs)

HOW OUR RATINGS ARE COMPILED

Championship vacancies can be filled in the following two ways: 1. THE RING's Nos. 1 and 2 contenders fight one another; 2. If the Nos. 1 and 2 contenders chose not to fight one another and either of them fights No. 3, No. 4 or No. 5, the winner may be awarded THE RING belt if the Editorial Board deems the contenders worthy.

A champion can lose his belt in six situations: 1. The Champion loses a fight in the weight class in which he is champion; 2. The Champion moves to another weight class; 3. The Champion does not schedule a fight in any weight class for 18 months; 4. The Champion does not schedule a fight at his championship weight for 18 months (even if he fights at another weight); 5. The Champion does not schedule a fight with a Top-5 contender from any weight class for two years; 6. The Champion retires.

THE RING Ratings Chairman Chuck Giampa considers input from the Ratings Panel of boxing journalists from around the world but has final say on all changes. That applies to both the pound-for-pound and divisional ratings.

Records provided by boxrec.com

RING RATINGS

BANTAMWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 118 LBS

C VACANT

1. **ANSELMO MORENO**
   Panama | 33-2-1 (12 KOs)
2. **SHINSUKE YAMANAKA**
   Japan | 23-0-1 (13 KOs)
3. **LEO SANTA CRUZ**
   Mexico | 23-0-1 (13 KOs)
4. **KOKI KAMEDA**
   Japan | 29-1-0 (17 KOs)
5. **MALCOLM TUNACAO**
   Philippines | 32-2-3 (20 KOs)
6. **HUGO RUIZ**
   Mexico | 31-2-0 (28 KOs)
7. **PAULUS AMBUNDA**
   Namibia | 20-0-0 (10 KOs)
8. **JULIO CEJA**
   Mexico | 24-0-0 (22 KOs)
9. **RYOSUKE IWASA**
   Japan | 14-1-0 (9 KOs)
10. **JAMIE MCDONNELL**
    U.K. | 20-2-1 (9 KOs)

JR. BANTAMWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 115 LBS

C VACANT

1. **OMAR NARVAEZ**
   Argentina | 38-1-2 (20 KOs)
2. **YOTA SATO**
   Japan | 26-2-1 (12 KOs)
3. **SURIYAN SOR RUNGVISAI**
   Thailand | 24-5-1 (9 KOs)
4. **JUAN CARLOS SANCHEZ JR.**
   Mexico | 15-1-1 (8 KOs)
5. **CARLOS CUADRAS**
   Mexico | 28-0-0 (23 KOs)
6. **KOHEI KONO**
   Japan | 28-7-0 (11 KOs)
7. **TEPPARITH SINGWANCHA**
   Thailand | 22-3-0 (13 KOs)
8. **RYO AKAHO**
   Japan | 19-1-2 (12 KOs)
9. **RODEL MAYOL**
   Philippines | 31-6-2 (22 KOs)
10. **OLEYDONG SITHSAMERCHAI**
    Thailand | 46-1-1 (16 KOs)

FLYWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 112 LBS

C TOSHIYUKI IGARASHI
Japan | 17-1-1 (10 KOs)

1. **BRIAN VILORIA**
   U.S. | 32-3-0 (19 KOs)
2. **HERNAN MARQUEZ**
   Mexico | 34-3-0 (25 KOs)
3. **MORUTI MTHALANE**
   S. Africa | 29-2-0 (20 KOs)
4. **SONNY BOY JARO**
   Philippines | 34-11-5 (24 KOs)
5. **MILAN MELINDO**
   Philippines | 28-0-0 (11 KOs)
6. **JUAN CARLOS REVECO**
   Argentina | 30-1-0 (16 KOs)
7. **EDGAR SOSA**
   Mexico | 48-7-0 (29 KOs)
8. **ROCKY FUENTES**
   Philippines | 34-6-2 (20 KOs)
9. **LUIS CONCEPCION**
   Panama | 27-3-0 (20 KOs)
10. **FROILAN SALUDAR**
    Philippines | 16-0-1 (11 KOs)

JR. FLYWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 108 LBS

C VACANT

1. **ROMAN GONZALEZ**
   Nicaragua | 34-0-0 (28 KOs)
2. **DONNIE NIETES**
   Philippines | 31-1-3 (17 KOs)
3. **MOISES FUENTES**
   Mexico | 16-1-1 (8 KOs)
4. **ADRIAN HERNANDEZ**
   Mexico | 26-2-1 (16 KOs)
5. **KAZUTO IOKA**
   Japan | 11-0-0 (7 KOs)
6. **JOHNRIEL CASIMERO**
   Philippines | 18-2-0 (10 KOs)
7. **KOMPAYAK PORPRAMOOK**
   Thailand | 49-4-0 (34 KOs)
8. **RYOICHI TAGUCHI**
   Japan | 17-1-1 (8 KOs)
9. **ALBERTO ROSSEL**
   Peru | 30-8-0 (13 KOs)
10. **FELIX ALVARADO**
    Nicaragua | 15-0-0 (12 KOs)

STRAWWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 105 LBS

C VACANT

1. **DENVER CUELLO**
   Philippines | 32-4-6 (21 KOs)
2. **WANHENG MENAYOTHIN**
   Thailand | 26-0-0 (8 KOs)
3. **MARIO RODRIGUEZ**
   Mexico | 15-6-4 (11 KOs)
4. **NKOSINATHI JOYI**
   South Africa | 23-1-0 (16 KOs)
5. **AKIRA YAEGASHI**
   Japan | 16-3-0 (9 KOs)
6. **RYO MIYAZAKI**
   Japan | 18-0-3 (10 KOs)
7. **HEKKIE BUDLER**
   South Africa | 22-1-0 (6 KOs)
8. **CARLOS BUITRAGO**
   Nicaragua | 24-0-0 (15 KOs)
9. **JESUS SILVESTRE**
   Mexico | 26-3-0 (19 KOs)
10. **MERLITO SABILLO**
    Philippines | 21-0-0 (11 KOs)

POUND FOR POUND

1. **FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR.**
   U.S. | 43-0-0 (26 KOs) | WELTERWEIGHT/ JR. MIDDLEWEIGHT
2. **ANDRE WARD**
   U.S. | 26-0-0 (14 KOs) | SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHT
3. **JUAN MANUEL MARQUEZ**
   Mexico | 55-6-1 (40 KOs) | JR. WELTERWEIGHT/ WELTERWEIGHT
4. **SERGIO MARTINEZ**
   Argentina | 50-2-2 (28 KOs) | MIDDLEWEIGHT
5. **NONITO DONAIRE**
   Philippines | 31-1-0 (20 KOs) | JR. FEATHERWEIGHT
6. **ADRIEN BRONER**
   U.S. | 26-0-0 (22 KOs) | LIGHTWEIGHT
7. **MANNY PACQUIAO**
   Philippines | 54-5-2 (38 KOs) | WELTERWEIGHT
8. **WLADIMIR KLITSCHKO**
   Ukraine | 59-3-0 (50 KOs) | HEAVYWEIGHT
9. **ROBERT GUERRERO**
   U.S. | 31-1-1 (18 KOs) | WELTERWEIGHT
10. **TIMOTHY BRADLEY**
    U.S. | 30-0-0 (12 KOs) | WELTERWEIGHT

Image: Ethan Miller-Getty

Robert Guerrero will reach rarified pound-for-pound air if he can upset Floyd Mayweather Jr. on May 4.

THE RING POLICY ON RATED BOXERS WHO TEST POSITIVE FOR PERFORMANCE-ENHANCING DRUGS

THE RING will remove from its ratings any rated boxer — including a champion — if such boxer at some point undergoes drug testing (Olympic-style or otherwise) and that boxer tests positive for a performance-enhancing drug.

In the event that a boxer has undergone testing in which the boxer provides two samples ("A" and "B") and the boxer's "A" and subsequent "B" samples test positive for a performance-enhancing drug or if his "A" sample tests positive and he waives his right to have the "B" sample tested then the boxer shall immediately be removed from the ratings.

A boxer whose "A" sample tested positive and is awaiting the results of his "B" sample will not be allowed to fight for a championship or rise in the ratings.

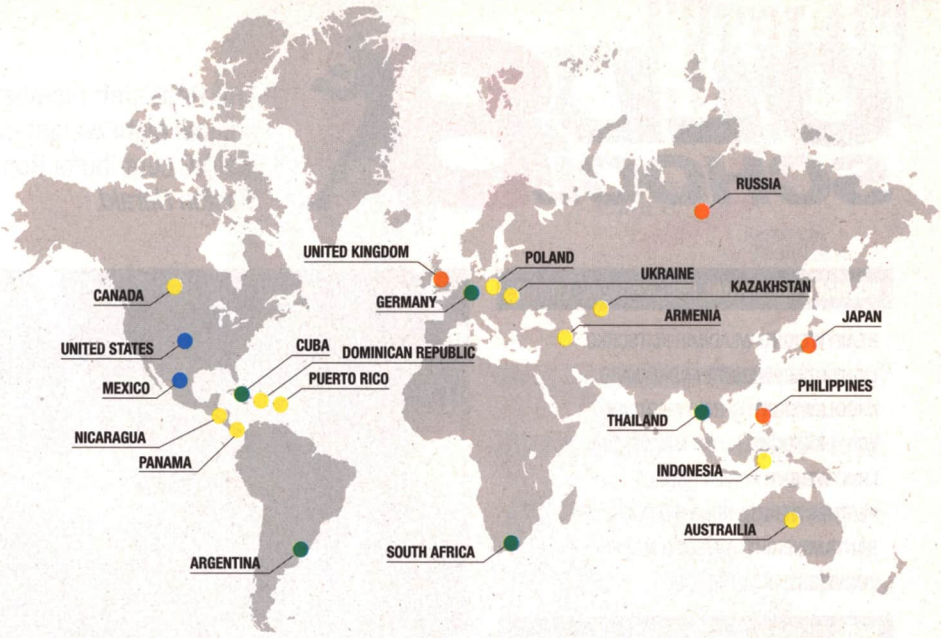
A boxer who is removed because of a positive test will have the opportunity to earn his way back into the ratings after any suspension period is completed.

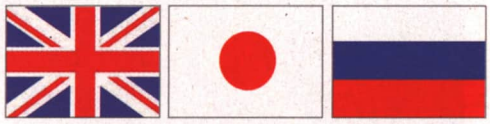
A boxer who is dropped also may be reinstated if the testing agency subsequently reverses its decision or a court of competent jurisdiction finds that the test result was invalid.

RATED FIGHTERS BY COUNTRY

MEXICO	28*
UNITED STATES	27*
UNITED KINGDOM	17
JAPAN	15
RUSSIA	13
PHILIPPINES	12
CUBA	5
GERMANY	5
THAILAND	5
ARGENTINA	4
SOUTH AFRICA	4
ARMENIA	3
AUSTRALIA	3
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	3
NICARAGUA	3
PANAMA	3
POLAND	3
UKRAINE	3
CANADA	2
INDONESIA	2
KAZAKHSTAN	2
PUERTO RICO	2
BULGARIA	1
CAMEROON	1
COLOMBIA	1
DENMARK	1
FINLAND	1
FRANCE	1
JAMAICA	1
MALAWI	1
NAMIBIA	1
NIGERIA	1
PERU	1
ROMANIA	1
SPAIN	1
UGANDA	1
UZBEKISTAN	1

**Includes two ratings for Floyd Mayweather Jr. (junior middleweight, welterweight) and Juan Manuel Marquez (welterweight and junior welterweight).*





BATTLE FOR THIRD PLACE

Mexico and the U.S. rank an uncontested No. 1 and No. 2 in the number of rated fighters. The race for third place is compelling, though. Here is how three hotbeds of boxing compare.

DIVISION	U.K.	JAPAN	RUSSIA
HEAVYWEIGHTS	2	0	2
CRUISERWEIGHTS	1	0	2
LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS	2	0	1
SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS	2	0	1
MIDDLEWEIGHTS	2	0	1
JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS	0	0	1
WELTERWEIGHTS	1	0	0
JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS	1	0	3
LIGHTWEIGHTS	3	0	0
JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS	0	2	0
FEATHERWEIGHTS	0	0	1
JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS	2	2	1
BANTAMWEIGHTS	1	3	0
JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHTS	0	3	0
FLYWEIGHTS	0	1	0
JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS	0	2	0
STRAWWEIGHTS	0	2	0
TOTALS	17	15	13

POUND FOR POUND

It has been more than a year since we last published our pound-for-pound country ratings, the number of fighters rated by THE RING in relation to population. Puerto Rico was No. 1 in March 2012. Here's an updated list. (Including countries with at least two rated fighters.)

1. ARMENIA	1 PER 991,395
2. PANAMA	1 PER 1,170,015
3. PUERTO RICO	1 PER 1,837,105
4. NICARAGUA	1 PER 1,909,236
5. CUBA	1 PER 2,215,049
6. UNITED KINGDOM	1 PER 3,729,151
7. MEXICO	1 PER 4,106,265
8. AUSTRALIA	1 PER 7,420,834
9. JAPAN	1 PER 8,483,538
10. PHILIPPINES	1 PER 8,810,054
11. KAZAKHSTAN	1 PER 8,868,448
12. DOM. REPUBLIC	1 PER 3,362,866
13. ARGENTINA	1 PER 10,548,124
14. RUSSIA	1 PER 10,962,898
15. UNITED STATES	1 PER 11,728,465
16. SOUTH AFRICA	1 PER 12,150,275
17. POLAND	1 PER 12,794,603
18. THAILAND	1 PER 13,489,624
19. UKRAINE	1 PER 14,857,735
20. GERMANY	1 PER 16,229,453
21. CANADA	1 PER 17,284,106
22. INDONESIA	1 PER 125,580,062

Source for population figures: CIA's The World Fact Book

NOTE: *The country of fighters who have spent large portions of their lives in two countries was determined primarily by where they spent the bulk of their childhood.*

OLD SCHOOL 8

THE RING staff members' current champions in the original eight weight classes. Our guest this month is RING contributor Ron Borges, a columnist with the *Boston Herald*.

MICHAEL ROSENTHAL RING MAGAZINE EDITOR

- **HEAVYWEIGHT:** WLADIMIR KLITSCHKO
- **LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT:** ANDRE WARD
- **MIDDLEWEIGHT:** SERGIO MARTINEZ
- **WELTERWEIGHT:** FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR.
- **LIGHTWEIGHT:** ADRIEN BRONER
- **FEATHERWEIGHT:** NONITO DONAIRE
- **BANTAMWEIGHT:** ANSELMO MORENO
- **FLYWEIGHT:** BRIAN VILORIA

DOUG FISCHER RINGTV.COM EDITOR

- **HEAVYWEIGHT:** WLADIMIR KLITSCHKO
- **LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT:** ANDRE WARD
- **MIDDLEWEIGHT:** SERGIO MARTINEZ
- **WELTERWEIGHT:** FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR.
- **LIGHTWEIGHT:** ADRIEN BRONER
- **FEATHERWEIGHT:** NONITO DONAIRE
- **BANTAMWEIGHT:** ANSELMO MORENO
- **FLYWEIGHT:** BRIAN VILORIA

LEM SATTERFIELD STAFF WRITER

- **HEAVYWEIGHT:** WLADIMIR KLITSCHKO
- **LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT:** ANDRE WARD
- **MIDDLEWEIGHT:** SERGIO MARTINEZ
- **WELTERWEIGHT:** FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR.
- **LIGHTWEIGHT:** ADRIEN BRONER
- **FEATHERWEIGHT:** NONITO DONAIRE
- **BANTAMWEIGHT:** ANSELMO MORENO
- **FLYWEIGHT:** BRIAN VILORIA

RON BORGES COLUMNIST

- **HEAVYWEIGHT:** VITALI KLITSCHKO
- **LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT:** ANDRE WARD
- **MIDDLEWEIGHT:** SERGIO MARTINEZ
- **WELTERWEIGHT:** FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR.
- **LIGHTWEIGHT:** ADRIEN BRONER
- **FEATHERWEIGHT:** NONITO DONAIRE
- **BANTAMWEIGHT:** LEO SANTA CRUZ
- **FLYWEIGHT:** BRIAN VILORIA

Note: *This is how the weights break down: Heavyweight includes cruiserweight, light heavyweight includes super middleweight, all divisions middleweight through flyweight include the "junior" versions, and flyweight also includes strawweight.*

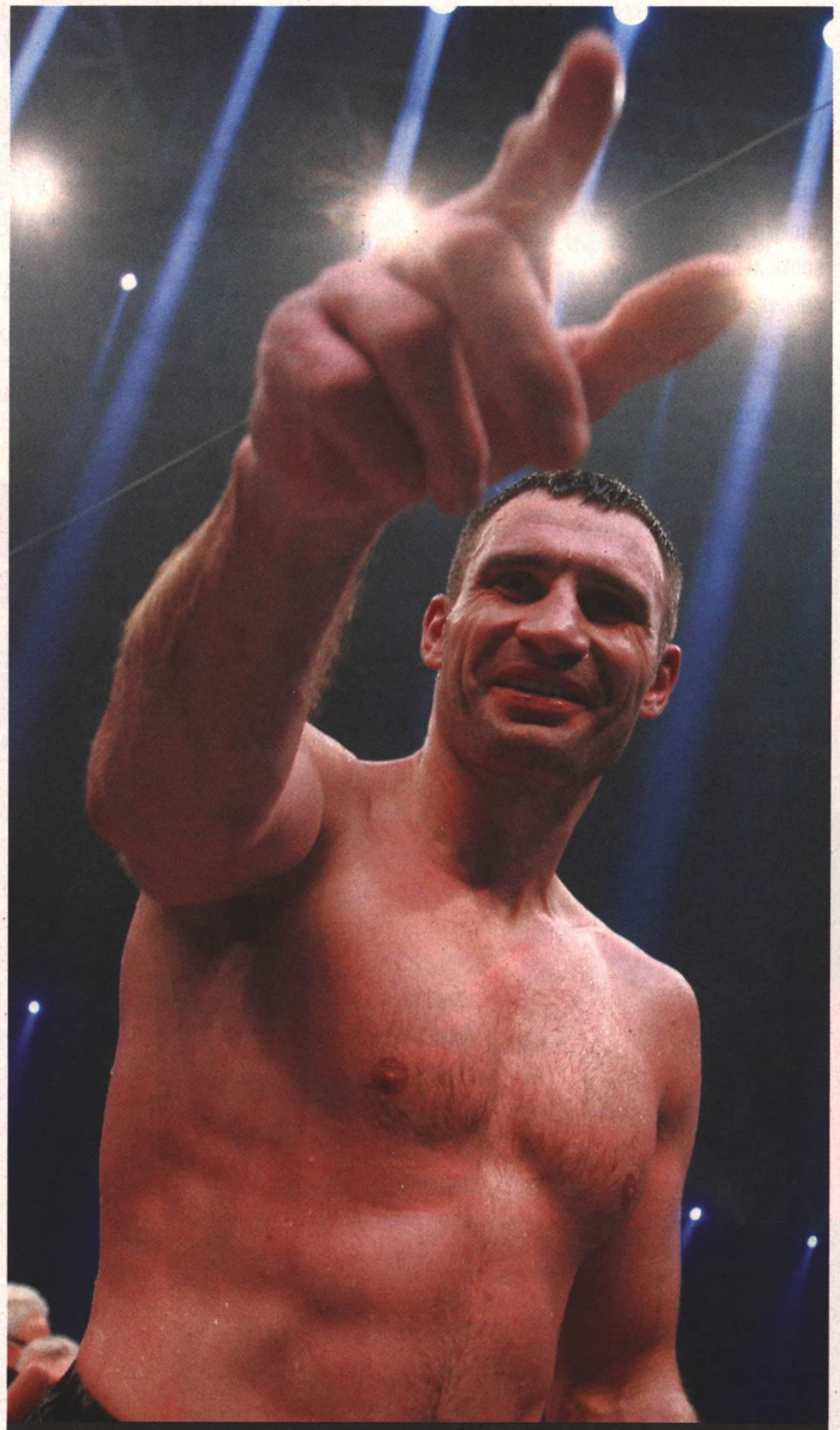


Image: Alexander Hassenstein-Bongarts-Getty

Boston Herald columnist and regular RING contributor Ron Borges isn't the only one out there who believes Vitali Klitschko is the best heavyweight in the world.

ANDRE WARD BOXING CHAMPION
EVERLAST HAS BEEN A PROUD
SUPPORTER OF BCRF SINCE 2006

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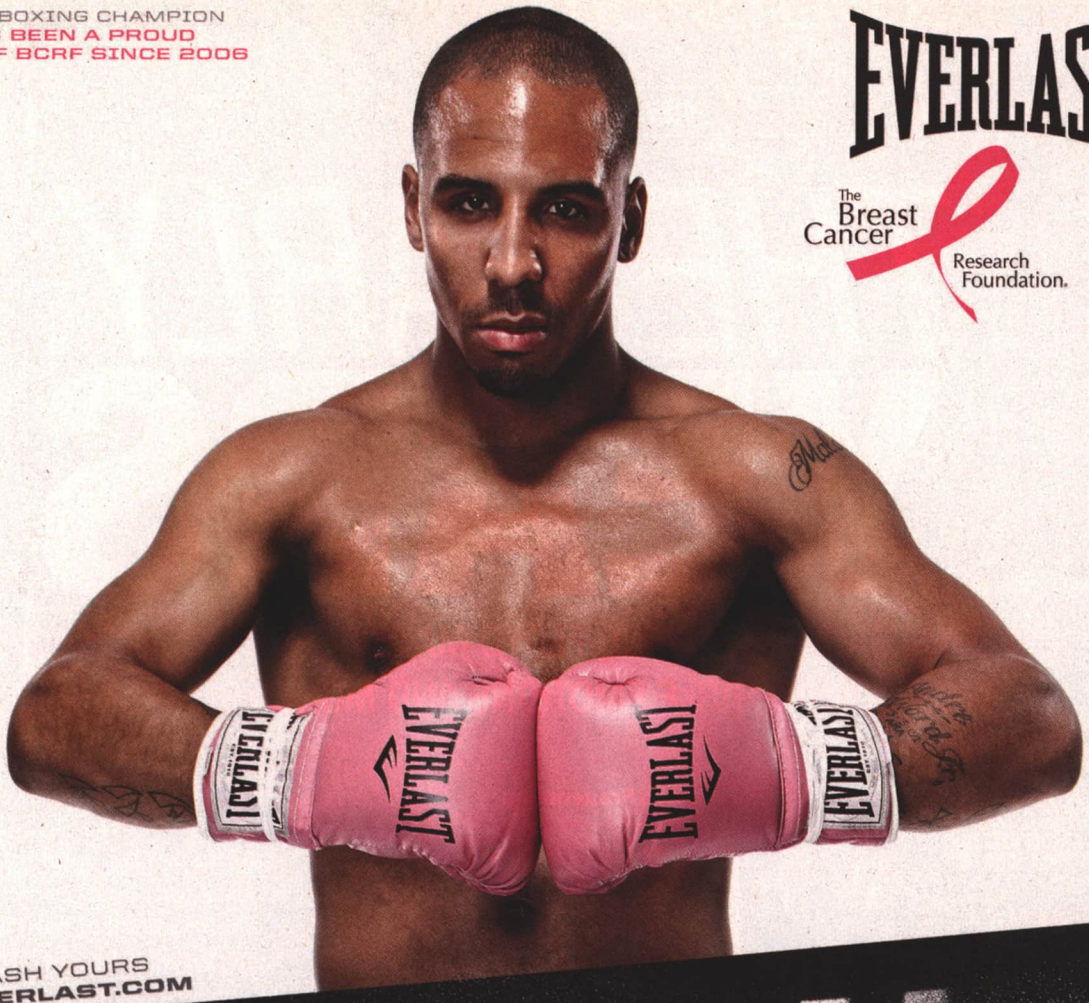

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MAYWEATHER VS. GUERRERO PREVIEW PACKAGE

THE EARLY YEARS

A LOOK BACK AT A YOUNG FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR., COMPLETE WITH COMBUSTIBLE EMOTIONS AND MONUMENTAL TALENT

MAYWEATHER vs. GUERRERO

WHEN: May 4
WHERE: MGM Grand, Las Vegas
AT STAKE: The vacant RING and Mayweather's WBC welterweight titles
TV: Showtime Pay-per-view

By: **Norm Frauenheim**

He's 36 now, without a loss in the ring and without a visible scar on his face. He changed his nickname from Pretty Boy to Money, and with a new Showtime contract worth a potential $250 million, who's to argue?

He has a criminal record. He walked into jail, did his time and walked out. He has agonized over his own father's time in prison, once evicted his dad from a house he owned, then re-possessed his van, threw him out of the gym during an infamous encounter on HBO's *24/7* and now has brought him back into his corner.

He's erratic and loyal, disciplined and unpredictable, insecure and cocky, notorious and popular, careful within the ropes yet a gambler outside of them. He's a whole lot of other things, seemingly contradictory yet all wrapped up in the quicksilver enigma known as Floyd Mayweather Jr.

For many who knew Mayweather as a kid without money and sometimes unsure of where he'd spend the night, they recall a young amateur who loved junk food as much as he loved to train. They remember combustible emotions as hard to contain as the talent.

They remember Floyd Sinclair, the name given to him by his mom, Debra. He legally changed it in 1989. As an 11-year-old, he took on his dad's name and the tempest that has come with it.

"Bonding with Floyd is not an easy thing to do," said Don Hale, who helped guide Mayweather Jr. through formative years that included Floyd Mayweather Sr.'s five-year sentence on federal drug charges.

Hale, now president of HRC Medical in Nashville, Tenn., first heard about Mayweather Jr. in 1993. Floyd Sr. had just been convicted of smuggling cocaine in detergent boxes. Hale was living in Grand Rapids, Mich. At the time, he was managing Frankie Randall, who would soon be the first to beat Julio Cesar Chavez with a split decision on Jan. 29, 1994, at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas.

"Frankie was getting ready to fight Julio," said Hale, who also managed heavyweight Nate Jones, a 1996 Olym-

Floyd Mayweather Jr. jumps for joy after outpointing Augie Sanchez to qualify for the 1996 Atlanta Olympics. Many more triumphs lay ahead.

Image: Al Bello-Getty

Floyd Mayweather Jr. opened the 1996 Games with a victory over Bakhtiyar Tilegenov (left) of Kazakhstan but had to settle for a bronze medal after losing to Serafim Todorov of Bulgaria in the semifinals. Mayweather hasn't lost since.
Image: Rusty Jarrett-Getty

pic bronze medalist, a Mayweather teammate at the Atlanta Games and a loyal friend of Mayweather ever since. "His uncle, Roger, called me and told me about this 15-year-old kid who was a good boxer but was running the streets and not in the gym anymore. I agreed to help.

"Floyd Jr. actually moved in with me, my wife and three kids. He lived with us for a while. I tried to treat Floyd as if he was one of our own. I'd take him to tournaments. I'd also take him to see Big Floyd, who at first was doing time in Pennsylvania and then in Milan, Michigan. But he didn't have the nurturing that other kids get. He could turn his back on relationships. He could do without relationships."

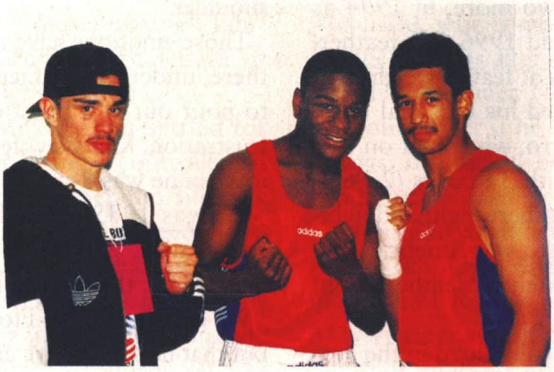
But there was a relationship to boxing and the daily regimen that he grew to value perhaps more than any other. He trained at Pride Boxing Gym in Grand Rapids. It's long gone. But Bruce Kielty, a longtime Midwest manager and matchmaker, remembers a 10-year-old on his toes and precariously balanced on top of an old wooden box so he could reach the speed bag. The box moved one way. Then, another. The feet moved with it in what might have been the first few steps in the educated footwork that has carried Mayweather to the top of the game.

Then, his dad, a former welterweight who lost to Sugar Ray Leonard in 1978, was always there, Kielty said, teaching the trademark shoulder roll, tucked-in chin and everything else that makes Mayweather Jr. the defensive equal of anyone in any era.

"I look at Floyd Jr. now and I see his dad," said Kielty, who operated the Pride Gym with former heavyweight Buster Mathis. "They have the same body type. Like his son, his dad does a lot of talking. But in the gym, his dad is a very serious coach. He imprinted his son with the style he used as a fighter. Floyd Jr. took it and perfected it with the speed, reflexes and athletic ability that his father didn't have. I think Floyd Jr. also may have inherited some things. It's just there, genetically."

These days, Floyd Jr. likes to talk about clean living. Lousy food was one of his complaints during his two-month stay last summer in the Clark County (Las Vegas) Detention Center for domestic abuse.

No junk food, no alcohol. Let Ricky Hatton drink his pints, he said before knocking out the popular U.K. fighter in 2007. He would never touch beer, he said. However, a couple of decades before he had a personal chef he was like any other kid in a candy store. He couldn't



Clockwise from top, Mayweather (with his father to his left) accepts his belt after winning a Black Expo tournament in Indianapolis in 1993; Mayweather at a high school formal; Mayweather between amateur rivals Augie Sanchez (left) and Carlos Navarro; and a visit to Floyd Mayweather Sr. at the Federal Correctional Institution in Milan, Mich. Left to right, grandmother Bernice, Mayweather Sr., sister Fatema, Mayweather and Don Hale.

stay away. The Pride Gym was located above a convenience store. It was irresistible. The young Mayweather would bounce down the steps and buy all the cookies, candy and chips he could afford.

"We're driving around one day, Floyd Jr. is in the back seat and I hear all these wrappers beneath his feet on the floor," Kielty said. "I warned him about it. I told him to quit eating all that junk or I'd throw him out my car. He yells back at me, telling me that he's gonna have his daddy beat me up."

He grew up and left behind the junk food. But his dad is not so easy to discard. The relationship has been there in some form for as long as anybody can recall. Junior and Senior have had more fights than Juan Manuel Marquez and Manny Pacquiao. More reunions than Marquez-Pacquiao rematches, too.

It all started when Floyd Jr. was a toddler and his last name was still Sinclair. In a well-documented story, Floyd Mayweather Sr. recalled a day in Grand Rapids when there was a confrontation with a brother-in-law, Tony Sinclair.

Mayweather Sr. wanted him to leave the house, saying he had overstayed his welcome. Tony Sinclair left and returned with a loaded rifle. Mayweather Sr. said he had his son in his arms when Tony Sinclair busted through a door. Mayweather said he looked up and saw the barrel of the weapon pointed into his eyes. Mayweather Jr.'s mom begged him to give her the child, according to Mayweather Sr. But he wouldn't, he said. Sinclair shifted the rifle's aim, lowered it to his left leg and fired, said Mayweather Sr., who has a nasty scar for proof.

There was chaos then and more of it later. Mayweather moved around, from address to address.

FORMATIVE PERIOD

A timeline of Floyd Mayweather Jr.'s development

FEB. 24, 1977 – Floyd Sinclair (his mother's last name) is born into a well-known boxing family in Grand Rapids, Mich.

1989 – The boy legally changes his name to Mayweather.

1993 – Wins first of three National Golden Gloves titles, at 106, 114 (1994) and 125 pounds (1996).

1994 – Floyd Mayweather Sr., a former contender who fought Sugar Ray Leonard, begins a five-year term in prison for drug trafficking.

MAY 4-15, 1995 – The U.S. National Champion loses in the second round of the World Championships in Berlin after breaking his hand. Noureddine Medjihoud of Algeria beats him 8-6.

JULY 20-AUG. 4, 1996 – Wins a bronze medal in the 1996 Atlanta Olympics. He lost a controversial 10-9 decision to silver medalist Serafim Todorov of Bulgaria. That was his last defeat.

OCT. 11, 1996 – Knocks out Roberto Apodaca in two rounds in his pro debut in Las Vegas, his current hometown. He would go on to win 10 world titles in five weight divisions.

"We set up a place in his mom's basement," Hale said. "He lived there for about three months."

The boy lived with his grandmother. He lived with Hale. Mostly, he lived in the gym. It was the one place he knew and could control with skill and instinct already evident.

"In the gym, the first thing I noticed was the desire," Hale said. "Getting Floyd to work hard was never a problem."

It quickly paid dividends. At 16, Mayweather won a national Golden Gloves title as a light-flyweight. He would win two more, in 1994 as a flyweight and 1996 as a featherweight. It was at featherweight that he encountered his first real rival, Carlos Navarro, who went on to a pro career with 34 bouts (27-6-1, 22 KOs) at featherweight and lightweight. Navarro was America's No. 1-ranked amateur at featherweight in 1995.

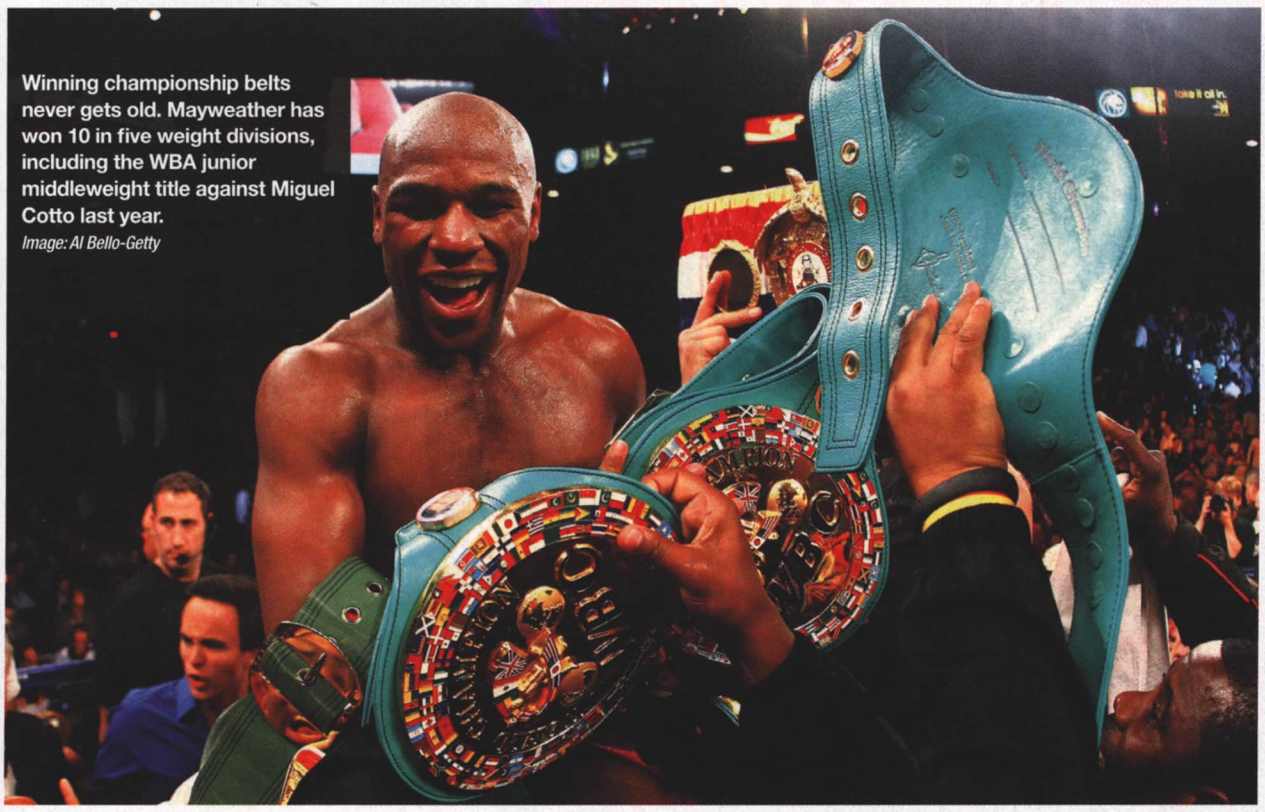
"I'd always told Floyd in the gym that Navarro was probably doing this much and that much," Hale said. "Floyd heard me and always did more."

In 1995, Navarro beat Mayweather in trials for the U.S. team at the Pan American Games in Mar del Plata, south of Buenos Aires. The next year, Mayweather would avenge the defeat, beating Navarro and eventually winning the featherweight spot on the 1996 U.S. Olympic team. But Hale remembers the loss and a handful of others because of the tears.

"He never handled losing well," Hale said. "He'd come back into the locker room after and cry on your shoulder."

Those emotions have always been there, under the surface and quick to pour out in a burst of anger or frustration. Kielty's wife, Janet, saw it when he was 8-years-old.

"It was 1985 at a Silver Gloves tournament," said Janet Kielty, who cooked for the kids at Pride Gym. "We got there, and Floyd Jr. finds out that he didn't have an opponent. He looked all around for an opponent. He was asking kids to fight



Winning championship belts never gets old. Mayweather has won 10 in five weight divisions, including the WBA junior middleweight title against Miguel Cotto last year.
Image: Al Bello-Getty

him. But nobody would. He came over, sat down next to me and just started crying.

"I remember him telling me: 'Just don't tell the other guys I cried.'"

Before the 1996 Olympics, Mayweather almost begged reporters at a training camp in Augusta, Ga., and again in Atlanta to help him get his dad out of prison. He said he wrote a letter to then-President Bill Clinton, pleading for his father's release.

"I want my father to see me win the gold medal," he said tearfully during an interview at an Olympic camp at the Augusta Boxing Club.

He wouldn't win that gold or gain his father's freedom.

Instead, Mayweather settled for bronze after losing a controversial semi-final 10-9 to Serafim Todorov of Bulgaria. The U.S. lodged a formal protest, alleging that the supervisor of officials, Emil Jetchev, intimidated the judges into giving the narrow victory to Todorov. Jetchev was also from Bulgaria.

Mayweather hasn't lost since. But tears and emotional outbursts have continued.

He fired his father as his manager in 2000. Then he fired him as his trainer and replaced him with Roger, who was in his corner until he re-hired his dad for his May 4 fight with Robert Guerrero.

The Mayweather story wouldn't be what it is without the emotions that have exploded for all to see on 24/7 or with Larry Merchant after a controversial fourth-round stoppage of Victor Ortiz on Sept. 17, 2011, at the MGM Grand. Mayweather spewed expletives at Merchant, who is more than twice his age. He was angry even though he was the winner. No telling how he would react if he lost. Nobody knows, of course, because in 43 pro fights he hasn't.

There's an argument, rooted in pop psychology, that personality more than legacy is the reason Mayweather wouldn't fight Pacquiao or anybody else who might endanger his perfect record. He doesn't fear getting beat up. Getting beat, however, is something he can't handle. That's a theory, anyway. That '0' on the right side of his record is an empty symbol open to some interpretation.

"Floyd Mayweather is a little bit insecure," rapper and promoter 50 Cent, Curtis Jackson, told *The Wall Street Journal*'s digital network in an interview that touched on Jackson's rocky friendship with him.

It's in the eye of the beholder as to whether Maywweather is protecting a fragile ego more than his chin or his legacy. Hale, for one, thinks that a perfect record is a Mayweather priority.

"Extremely important," said Hale, who also says the reunion with his dad is a sign of maturity in a fighter with kids of his own. "If he wants to, he can retire unbeaten. Yeah, I think that means a lot to him.

"I wouldn't be surprised if he fights guys he's comfortable with."

Maybe, nobody else should be, either. That's always been the one relationship he can control. ■

MAYWEATHER VS. GUERRERO PREVIEW PACKAGE

FIGHTING MAYWEATHER

PAST OPPONENTS WEIGH IN ON THE MAY 4 MATCHUP WITH GUERRERO AND WHAT MAKES 'MONEY' SO GOOD

By: **Mike Coppinger**

Floyd Mayweather loves to say "43 have tried and 43 have failed" (actually 42 since he fought Jose Luis Castillo twice), a constant reminder that the pound-for-pound Picasso's record remains unblemished.

The 36-year-old welterweight is the dominant fighter of his era, possessing an amazing array of speed, skills and ring IQ. But just what makes the future Hall of Famer so good?

THE RING caught up to five of his former opponents to find out what it's like to be face-to-face with Mayweather ahead of his fight with Robert Guerrero for the vacant RING welterweight championship on May 4 in Las Vegas.

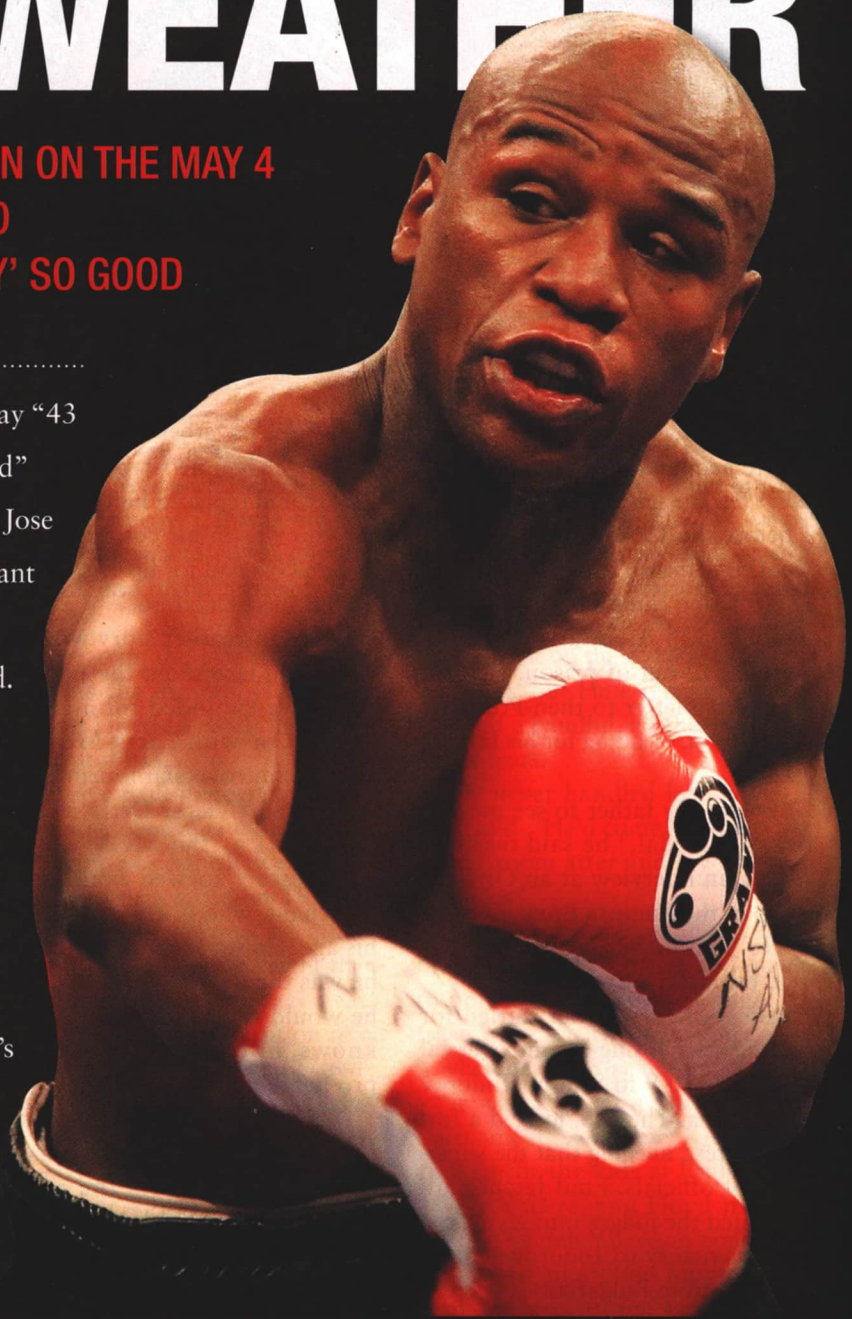


Image: Jed Jacobsohn-Getty

Image: Jed Jacobsohn-Getty

1 SHANE MOSLEY

FOUGHT MAYWEATHER: May 1, 2010
RESULT: Mayweather by UD (119-109, 118-110, 119-109)

MAYWEATHER VS. GUERRERO: "I think Mayweather might be a little too good, but then again he might be ripe for the picking. He hasn't fought in a while, his timing might be off, he's fighting a southpaw. Guerrero has a good, strong left hand; he has a deceptive left hand. I sparred Guerrero for a month when he was fighting at lightweight and said, 'Wow, he's got a little power in his left hand.' He had a good little left hand when he was a lightweight; he might be hitting a little harder at welterweight."

MAYWEATHER STRENGTHS: "Mayweather is real sharp, is real fast and is so confident in his skills. He's a very good technician with both hands. Mayweather has deceptively good power. He throws good shots, he punches pretty good. He gets the rap of not really being a good puncher but he has a good stinging shot. I'd rate his and Canelo's power about the same."

MAYWEATHER VULNERABILITIES: "Usually southpaws give him problems, because he leads with that left hand. A pure boxer, a guy that will make it more of a boring fight, will probably give Mayweather problems because Mayweather would have to become the aggressor more instead of the counterpuncher. Somebody like a Paul Williams would have given him a lot of problems, when he was at welterweight, because he's tall and a southpaw and a rangy boxer. He would have given anybody problems."

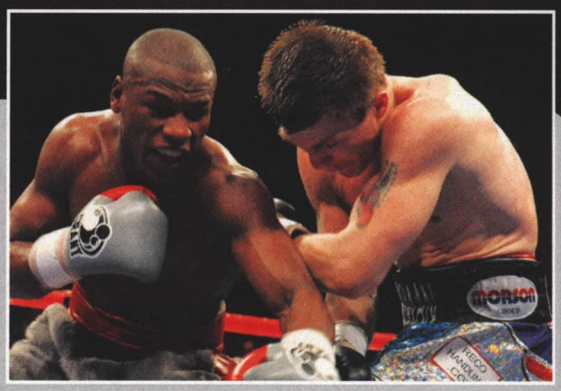


Image: Gabriel Bouys-AFP-Getty

2 RICKY HATTON

FOUGHT MAYWEATHER: Dec. 8, 2007
RESULT: Mayweather by TKO 10 (Mayweather leading 88-82, 89-81, 89-81)

MAYWEATHER STRENGTHS: "He didn't compare to the other people I boxed; he's without doubt the best I ever faced. What makes Floyd so good is his defense and his timing. I must have thrown three times more punches than Floyd but he threw the punches that counted. He didn't waste any shots and he caught me. That's what makes a great fighter."

BEING IN THE RING WITH MAYWEATHER: "Needless to say it was a great honor to challenge Floyd, who was pound-for-pound the best boxer in the world, and for what he's done since I fought him makes me feel even prouder."

TYPE OF OPPONENT MAYWEATHER WOULD PREFER: "An attacking fighter. That's what brings out the best in Floyd, when he's under pressure; that's when you see the best of Floyd."

Image: Donald Miralle-Getty

3 CARLOS HERNANDEZ

FOUGHT MAYWEATHER: May 26, 2001
RESULT: Mayweather by UD 12 (119-109, 117-109, 116-111)

MAYWEATHER VS. GUERRERO: "(Guerrero) just seems like he has a lot of motivation riding into each fight, with his wife being sick, but he's been able to fight through that and win big fights. Unfortunately, I don't see him beating Floyd 'Money' Mayweather. It's just hard."

MAYWEATHER STRENGTHS: "I used to spar with Roger Mayweather back in the '80s, and it was a great experience for me to see him roll those shots off his shoulder and then come back with combinations or a fantastic right uppercut. (Floyd) Mayweather has that (ability), except he comes back with a beautiful straight right hand.

"You get all these Mexican fighters that go at Mayweather, try to tear him down with body shots, but it's going to be hard for (anyone) to catch him clean to the body. He just covers up so well. He rolls with the shot and comes back with the perfect counter shot. It's just incredible."

MAYWEATHER AGING: "He probably is slowing down just a little bit, but even on his off day, he'll beat any fighter out there. The guy is just a talented fighter. That's why he's so confident with what he does and what he can do. He doesn't see himself losing; I don't see him losing. I believe this is still his time."

GUERRERO SHOULD BOX: "Instead of fighting like a straight up Mexican fighter, if he can box him with that southpaw stance, he can (give him problems). I would go with Pernell Whitaker over Mayweather. But Guerrero's not that type of fighter.

"You can't be aggressive against a guy like Mayweather, who knows how to counter. It's a mistake to try to outhustle him, outmacho him. It's not about being macho or strong or anything like that; you have to be smart in there, use speed and intelligence."

Image: Al Bello-Getty

4 DEMARCUS CORLEY

FOUGHT MAYWEATHER: May 22, 2004
RESULT: Mayweather by UD 12 (119-107, 118-108, 119-108)

MAYWEATHER VS. GUERRERO: "From the research I've done on (Guerrero), he's not a power puncher; he's just an aggressive fighter. He doesn't have nothing to hurt Floyd, so it's not going to be a dangerous fight for Floyd. Guerrero's just a straightforward fighter who's going to throw a lot of punches and try to overwhelm you and break you down. (Floyd's) gonna break him down. I have it going 11 rounds."

MAYWEATHER AGING: "He's the same cat. He's gotten better over the years as he's put on weight, and from the looks of it he's put on some punching power. At 140, he couldn't punch; he couldn't hurt me."

MAYWEATHER STRENGTHS: "He's an all-around fighter, inside and outside. If you look at the Zab Judah fight, Zab was winning the first five rounds. (Mayweather) makes every adjustment you bring to the table."

MAYWEATHER VULNERABILITIES: "Canelo Alvarez's style – a bigger, stronger guy – will give Floyd problems. I would give Canelo the first six rounds. It's the ending part of the fight where Floyd starts picking it up and breaking you down."

Image: Al Bello-Getty

5 ZAB JUDAH

FOUGHT MAYWEATHER: April 8, 2006
RESULT: Mayweather by UD 12 (119-109, 116-112, 117-111)

BEING ABLE TO GIVE MAYWEATHER PROBLEMS: "I think that my speed gave him problems. He didn't anticipate me being that fast. For the first six rounds, I was quicker, I hit harder. I even knocked him down [referee Richard Steele missed Mayweather's glove touching the canvas.] He saw myself getting tired and took advantage of that. He was in dynamite shape and took advantage of his condition over my condition."

MAYWEATHER VULNERABILITIES: "There's a lot of fighters out there that are really good, but when they face a different style they get thrown off for a while. I think Mayweather at times gets thrown off because he doesn't fight southpaws as much."

MAYWEATHER VS. GUERRERO: "If Mayweather comes in and dictates and dominates as he usually does from Round 1, then it's another Mayweather assassination. We've never seen him off his A-game. Why would he not be on his A-game now? (Guerrero) doesn't match up in speed with Mayweather, but he has a power shot and a pressure shot. How he appears physically and mentally will dictate the terms of this fight."

MAYWEATHER AGING: "He got hit a lot in the (Miguel Cotto) fight, but I don't think he's slowed down any. He had a year off from boxing."

BOXING'S LATEST DAVID

ROBERT GUERRERO ENTERS HIS FIGHT AGAINST THE SPORT'S GOLIATH – FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR. – AN UNDERDOG BUT ALSO BATTLE TESTED AND SUPREMELY CONFIDENT

By: **Ron Borges**

Everyone, it seems, underestimates Robert Guerrero – even his promoter.

Months before he would make his debut at welterweight a year ago, Guerrero sat at ringside during an Abner Mares fight eyeball-to-eyeball with a shocked Oscar De La Hoya, who believed he was giving Guerrero wise counsel by advocating he take a tune-up fight before challenging a top welterweight since it would mean moving up two weight classes following a 15-month layoff due to rotator cuff surgery.

Guerrero was having none of it, though, so De La Hoya thought he'd set him straight. On May 4, Floyd Mayweather Jr. thinks he'll be doing the same thing. He better hope he fares better than De La Hoya did.

"He'd never even fought at 140 and Robert wanted to fight this guy (Selcuk Aydin) who was undefeated (23-0) and a former Olympian who was a pretty solid puncher at that weight (147)," said Bob Santos, Guerrero's long-time manager. "It wasn't like he was going in against a boxer type like Paulie Malignaggi, where you knew he could take his punch. Robert felt to get a Showtime date he had to do this, but Oscar was saying he had to do a tune-up first.

"Robert looked Oscar dead in the eye and says, 'I got 30 fights. I don't need a tune-up. It's not a problem.' It got heated. At one point Robert said, 'Just make the fight!'

"I think Oscar felt we were biting off more than we could chew, but that's the mindset that will carry the day on May 4."

Guerrero, who easily outpointed Aydin to claim the WBC interim welterweight title and set up a showdown with Andre Berto that eventually led him to Mayweather, recalled that night as well, accepting De La Hoya's point of view as typical of the doubters who have been mistaken about him throughout his boxing career.

Tom Hogan-Hoganphotos

Image: Naoki Fukuda

Robert Guerrero (right) earned his shot against Floyd Mayweather Jr. with his hard-fought victory over Andre Berto.

"It was a bit awkward how direct I was with Oscar when he was telling me I needed a tune-up after my shoulder surgery, but I told him if I was going to test my shoulder, I wanted to test it against the best," recalled Guerrero. "I already had my eye on Mayweather. I didn't have no doubt at all.

"I like to go out there and push myself to the limit all the time. The biggest fights for me were at 147 – Mayweather, (Manny) Pacquiao, (Juan Manuel) Marquez. I had no second thoughts about whether I could move up. I'm blessed with the tools I have, yet I've always been overlooked. Guys look at me and think they're going to walk through me. Then they fight me and find out different."

Certainly that was the case with Aydin and even more so with Berto, who Guerrero decimated last November to win a decision so solid he believes Mayweather had little choice but to do what De La Hoya did and accept his challenge.

That night, Berto, a former welterweight titleholder with well-established punching power, was a heavy betting favorite while Guerrero was seen as someone who had moved up too far too fast, a light-hitting boxer who had overstepped the boundaries of his skills and perhaps the resilience of his chin.

"Berto looked at Robert and you could swear he was ready to have his victory party at the weigh-in," Santos said. "They were already ordering the hors d'oeuvres. He just saw a skinny little white kid."

The next night Berto saw Guerrero from a different vantage point. He saw him from the floor, where Guerrero put him in both the first and second rounds by surprising him with unanticipated aggression. Thought of primarily as a boxer so exceedingly slick he was known as "The Ghost," Guerrero suddenly transformed himself into "The Beast."

He came after Berto with a vengeance but more importantly with a plan Berto never expected. Realizing Berto needed room to land his often wide hooks, he crowded him, took away his offense and delivered the kind of beating that reminding the boxing world that of all his many assets, Robert Guerrero's mind may be his most significant because it allows his body to do the things that have made him a three-time world champion in two weight divisions and perhaps the most underrated fighter in recent memory.

"I think of this fight as a modern day David and Goliath," said Guerrero, who knows such Bible stories by heart because his Christian faith runs even deeper than his talent. "People think Mayweather is the biggest, strongest champion in the world, but this little shepherd boy is going to come and beat his ass. I'm like a bullet in the Lord's gun. When He pulls the trigger, there is nothing that can stop it. That's where my confidence is.

"Berto was considered the bigger guy, the stronger guy, but I turned from 'The Ghost' into 'The Haunting.' I wanted to leave a statement in everybody's mind with Berto. Berto said some words just like Mayweather has. I wanted to beat him down for 12 rounds. I walked him down and put pressure on him for 12 rounds and he was befuddled.

"That's what Floyd doesn't understand about me. I can fight on the inside. I can fight on the outside. I can box. I can fight. There are so many different aspects to my game. That was just a little of what I can do."

To beat Mayweather, you have to not only win the physical battle, you have to win the mental chess match that begins months before the first bell sounds. You have to win the beat-down before the beat-down, dealing with the mounting and often profane psychological pressure Mayweather puts on his opponents with his flashy persona and constant insults and self-aggrandizement.

Mayweather is a master of hype as well as of boxing, someone who deeply understands in the way Sugar Ray Leonard once did the force of words and their ability to invade an opponent's mind and leave behind traces of self-doubt that ferment into a self-defeating prophesy.

It is a strategy that has long worked in boxing. It worked for Mike Tyson for years, defeating weak-minded opponents long before they'd entered the ring, and Mayweather began the process almost as soon as the fight was agreed to.

He has been relentless in pointing out to the soft-spoken Guerrero all that he is not in boxing and all that "Money" Mayweather has become. The latter is the undisputed financial king of the sport and a personality that commands the stage. He was long the star of HBO's *24/7* pre-fight shows and surely will be in whatever Showtime puts together to publicize their upcoming encounter as well.

He is so powerful in the marketplace he could risk walking away from HBO, long the most powerful entity in the sport, and land a six-fight guaranteed deal from Showtime that pays him a minimum $30 million on pay-per-view before one buy has been finalized, regardless of the opponent.

GUERRERO'S CLIMB

Robert Guerrero fought as light as 122 pounds and now campaigns as a 147-pounder, a span of six weight divisions. Here is how he did in each weight class:

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHT

RECORD: 1-0 (0 KOS)
KEY VICTORIES: Outpointed journeyman Joaquin Candelario in four rounds.
SUMMARY: This was his fifth pro fight.

FEATHERWEIGHT

RECORD: 16-1 (10 KOS) (1 NC)
KEY VICTORIES: Gamaliel Diaz KO 6 (avenging only loss); Eric Aikin KO 8 (to win IBF title); Spend Abazi KO 9 (to win vacant IBF title).
SUMMARY: Won two of his three world titles at this weight and made two successful defenses. A loss to Orlando Salido became a no-contest when Salido failed a drug test.

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHT

RECORD: 7-0-1 (6 KOS) (1 NC)
KEY VICTORY: Malcolm Klassen UD 12 (to win IBF title).
SUMMARY: Vacated the title without making a defense. Fight against Daud Yordan ended in no-contest when Guerrero was cut. Some questioned Guerrero's heart for not insisting that the fight continue.

LIGHTWEIGHT

RECORD: 4-0 (2 KOS)
KEY VICTORIES: Vicente Escobedo UD 10; Michael Katsidis UD 12.
SUMMARY: The Katsidis fight was his last in more than 15 months because he tore his rotator cuff preparing to fight Marcos Maidana.

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHT

RECORD: 1-0 (0 KOS)
KEY VICTORIES: Joel Casamayor UD 12.
SUMMARY: Easily outpointed the aging Cuban before dropping back down to 135.

WELTERWEIGHT

RECORD: 2-0 (0 KOS)
KEY VICTORIES: Selcuk Aydin UD 12; Andre Berto UD 12.
SUMMARY: Clear decisions over quality opponents, particularly Berto, earned him a shot at Mayweather.

It was the kind of deal fighters like Guerrero would not dream about because it would be a fool's errand, and Mayweather constantly rubs that in as a way to put into the minds of his opponents that they are less than he is and so are victims in waiting, lambs to be led to the slaughter.

It is a power that only the most elite fighters of their eras – Sugar Ray Robinson, Joe Louis, Muhammad Ali, Leonard, Julio Cesar Chavez and a handful of others – can claim. Guerrero knows it exists, of course, because he's already been exposed to it, but unlike many of his peers he comes swathed in unusual armor.

It is the same armor Evander Holyfield wore when he was a 17-1 underdog to Tyson before their first fight, the armor of a power greater than himself, a power wrapped in faith that on May 4 he is fighting not only for something larger but through someone larger.

"You have to be on your guard with him," Guerrero (31-1-1, 18 KO) said of Mayweather. "He tries to break you down psychologically. He says things, and a lot of fighters get very mad and offended. He's trying to brainwash you to believe he's the biggest fighter ever.

"He keeps saying he's the highest paid athlete ever. He has extra cars, bigger houses. He pounds that down your throat and into your brain until guys believe it. It's like he's trying to do the Tony Roberts thing on you: convince you he's unstoppable. I got a little taste of it already when we did a *Faceoff* (taping) for Showtime. It went in one ear and out the other because I see right through it.

"He went off! 'You do this for love of the sport! I do this for money!' I just told him 'That's your problem. Money is your God.' He's just a man who's not happy. Everybody knows what he's got. He doesn't have to keep telling everybody but it's all he's got. Look at his fight with Victor Ortiz. After it was over, he breaks down crying at the post-fight, hollering 'I deserve this!' To me, that's a guy who is lost.

"The Bible says those who exalt themselves will be humbled and those who humble themselves will be exalted. That's why I try to humble myself. I see Floyd Mayweather always exalting himself.

"It's why I think this fight is bigger than making money or beating the biggest fighter in the world. It's an opportunity to show how amazing God is. When they told me we had the fight the first thing that hit my mind was what my pastor told me once when I was going through some hard times.

"He told me 'Son, one day you'll minister to millions of people on the biggest stage in boxing.' On May 4 I'll be on that stage for a reason. The Lord closes doors that can't be opened and opens doors that can't be closed. The Lord's been refining me for this moment."

Image: Naoki Fukuda

Guerrero proved he could handle a full-fledged welterweight by dominating sturdy Selcuk Aydin in July of 2012.

If He has been, it has been through endless flames. Guerrero began boxing at the age of 4, working alone in the corner of his father's gym as his older brothers trained.

Guerrero was learning an ancient trade on his own, perfecting his art by watching, imitating and, finally, transforming himself into someone who understood through osmosis the importance of adjustments and self-knowledge even before his father, Ruben, and Santos noticed his footwork and movement.

Eventually he would become one of the country's best amateurs, but he was robbed at the 2000 Olympic Trials at 16, a lesson that left a lasting impression on him and set him off on the winding road that has led to Mayweather's doorstep.

"He was the youngest kid at the Trials," recalled Ruben Guerrero, who still trains his son. "They wanted him to wait four years to be the chosen one, but what they did to him left a bad taste in his mouth. They robbed him.

Image: Naoki Fukuda

Guerrero (right) left Berto's face a swollen mess with hard, accurate shots like this one and won a convincing decision.

"He told me he didn't want to wait. He didn't trust them. He wanted to turn pro and become a world champion. I told him if we turned pro he wasn't doing this for fun anymore. The fun is over or you end up getting hurt real bad. Go full force or don't go at all. He said he wanted to turn pro. From there on we had a hard road."

That included having to wait nearly a year and a half to fight professionally because the age limit in California was changed to 18, and then injuring his knuckle in his first outing, necessitating another five-month layoff.

Throughout his climb from an unknown kid from an unknown town (Gilroy, Calif., whose welcome sign reads: "Gilroy: The Garlic Capital of the World") to a world champion now playing boxing's latest David, the road has been pot-holed and mostly uphill.

It has been littered with short money, injuries and losing the featherweight title on his first defense to Orlando Salido only to have that outcome vacated when Salido tested positive for steroids. Then, after reclaiming that title by stopping Spend Abazi in Denmark, his first title defense was marred by being unable to attend the final pre-fight press conference because his wife had been diagnosed with leukemia.

Guerrero won anyway, stopping Martin Honorio in the first round, and after one defense moved up to junior lightweight, winning the IBF title less than two years later. But then his wife, Casey, had relapsed and needed both chemotherapy and a bone marrow transplant. Aching for her, Guerrero relinquished that title in February 2010 after winning it from Malcolm Klassen four months earlier and took nearly a year off before returning to campaign as both a lightweight challenger and one of the faces of BeTheMatch.com, a website that seeks bone marrow donors.

It would be four years before Mayweather finally agreed to give him his shot at a big-money fight. But through all those trials, Guerrero remained steadfast.

"I got a little discouraged at times, but he never did," his father admitted. "It was rough coming up. He wasn't getting paid much. We stayed in hotels with a foam ice chest for a refrigerator. The restroom at the Travel Lodge was our kitchen.

Image: Naoki Fukuda

Guerrero is devoted to boxing but his family, including wife Casey (right), comes first. They're celebrating the Aydin victory here.

"Then he finally gets there and his wife gets sick. You're ready to rise to the top and she has a relapse and he had to make a tough decision: fight for the (interim lightweight) championship (against Michael Katsidis) or be beside your wife. He wanted to be with his wife. He told me, 'Dad, I'll be champion again.'

"We've been through a hard road, but he did what was right. That's why he's been blessed by God with this."

This, of course, is May 4, his date with boxing's pound-for-pound and dollar-for-dollar champion. Win or lose, it is his moment, one Robert Guerrero believes he's been battle tested for. It is a moment not just for fistic fury but also for an intellectual exercise in assault tactics.

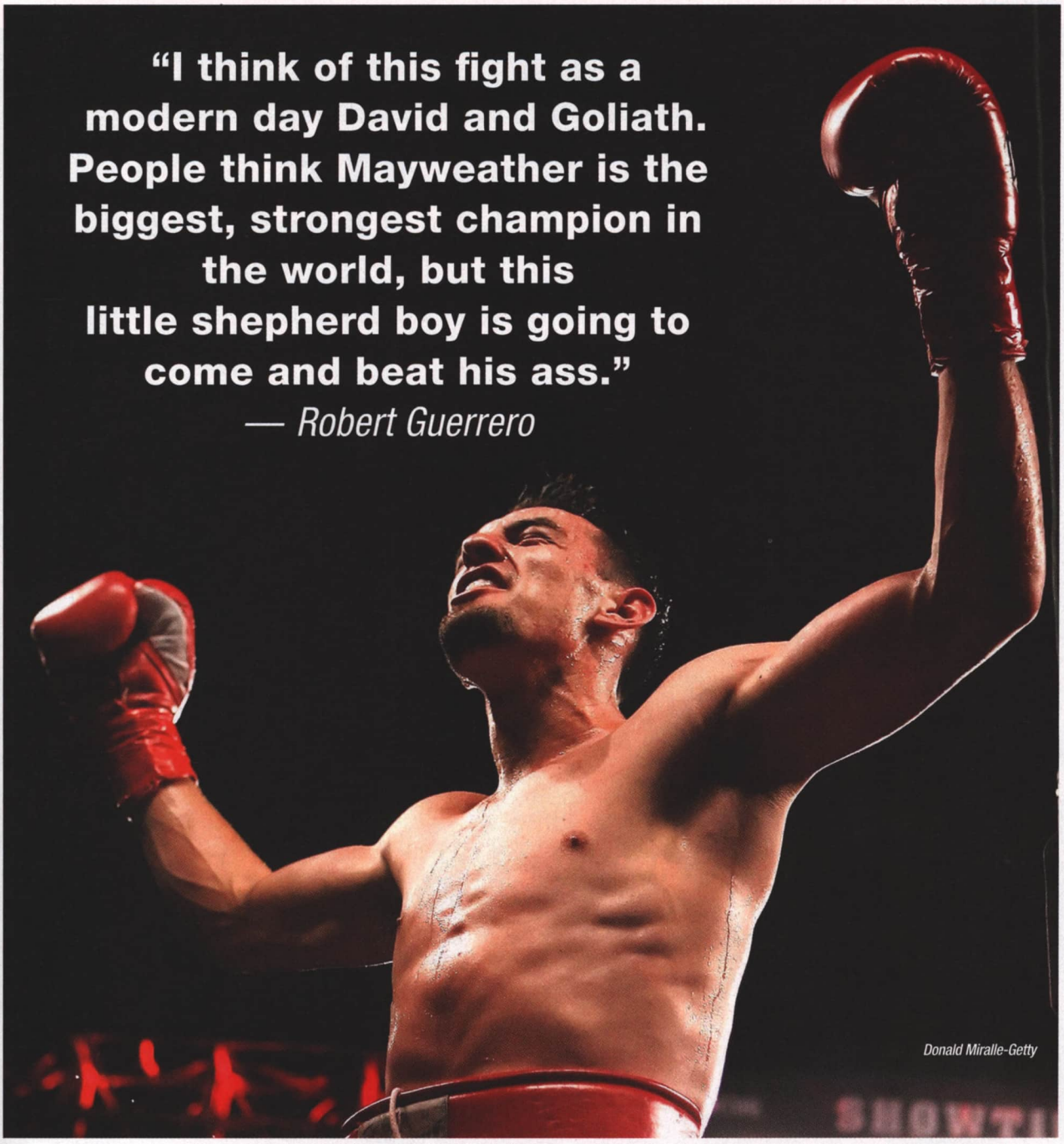
"If Mayweather thinks he's smarter than Robert in the ring, he's wrong," Ruben Guerrero says. "He never fought a fighter like Robert before. Robert never fights the same fight. He's always adjusting between fights and in a fight.

"Mayweather says he can't be beaten, but the first thing they asked for was a rematch clause. He never gives nobody a rematch so why'd he want that? He knows what Robert is, and he knows we got Jesus behind us. He's got money and fame behind him, but we got God giving us the advantage."

That, of course, means something only if you can fight, but Robert Guerrero has already proven he can. What he has to prove on May 4 is something more. He has to prove that when the moment comes for a modern day David, he's got something special in his slingshot.

"Floyd destroys guys because he's smarter than they are," Robert Guerrero said. "Most guys are one-dimensional. They can't adjust when they have to. I can adjust halfway through a round or halfway through a fight.

"I've seen some decline in Mayweather. He's still better than 99 per cent of the fighters out there,



but everyone gets old. I just have to be patient. You don't get many opportunities to hit him, but I'm fast enough to do it. I'm smart enough to do it. I've got the timing to do it. Timing is what beats speed."

Luis DeCubas is a long-time fight manager who more than a year ago agreed to partner with Santos to help advance Guerrero's career. His plan was to move him to 147 and run down Mayweather, and it worked for reasons DeCubas says are not all visible.

"Other fighters have talent you can easily see," DeCubas said. "The mind is not visible to the eye. Robert is like Steve Nash at point guard. He sees things in the ring before they happen.

"He was a 3-1 underdog against Berto, and he hadn't lost in seven years. He's 7-1 [underdog] against Floyd. Some people think he's just an overhyped guy who won some titles and quit boxing for a while when his wife got sick, but that's not all there is to Robert Guerrero."

There is a three-time world champion in two weight classes, a "ghost" who can also be a nightmare and, most of all, there's a guy who believes he has more than God on his side. He has talent, the southpaw stance that has long troubled Floyd Mayweather and, most of all, a thinking man's approach to a battle that will be as much psychological as physical. ■

MAYWEATHER VS. GUERRERO PREVIEW PACKAGE

HEAD TO HEAD

RINGTV.COM EDITOR DOUG FISCHER BREAKS DOWN MAYWEATHER vs. GUERRERO IN 20 KEY CATEGORIES

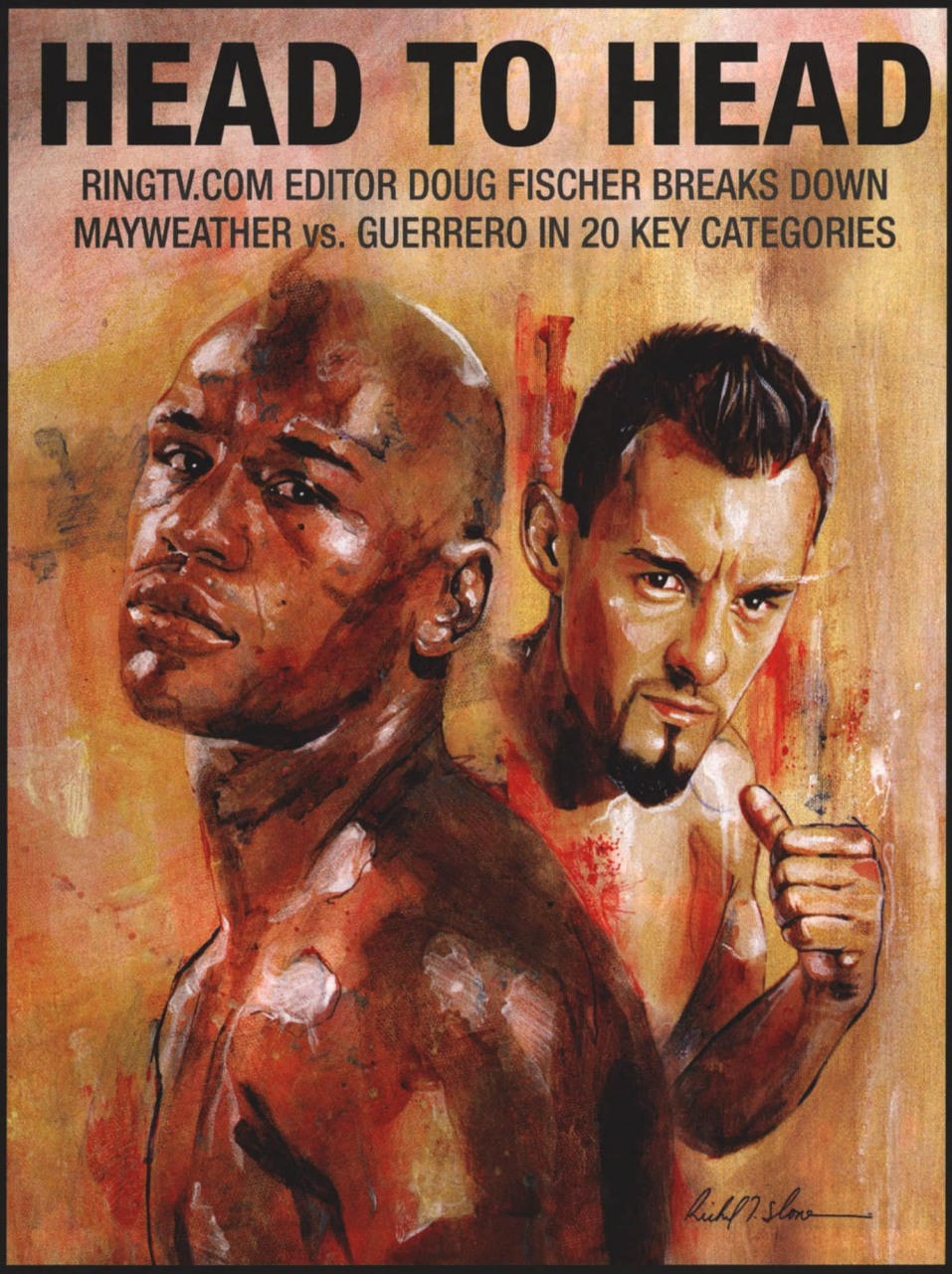


Image: Richard T. Slone

Floyd Mayweather's hall of fame-worthy career has spanned five weight classes, a feat that very few professional boxers have equaled. Mayweather's next opponent, Robert Guerrero, is among the few.

The 29-year-old southpaw has competed at the world-class level at featherweight, junior lightweight, lightweight, junior welterweight and welterweight. But despite winning major titles in two divisions (126 and 130 pounds) and successfully jumping from 135 to 147 pounds, he's had a hard time gaining the "elite" status that normally accompanies such accomplishments.

Maybe it's the lack of consistency in Guerrero's career, or because he's not a flashy fighter with a bombastic personality. Whatever the reason, he has a grand opportunity to silence all of his doubters on May 4.

Can he do it? The aim of this feature is to examine that possibility with an in-depth analysis of both fighters.

Here's how Mayweather and Guerrero match up in 20 categories, both physical and intangible, with each fighter rated on a scale of 0 to 5. (A score of 100 would denote the perfect fighter.)

HAND SPEED

Mayweather's reflexes may have slowed down just a bit with age but his hands remain as quick as ever. He is arguably the fastest 147-pounder in the world, with Tim Bradley and Manny Pacquiao close behind him. Guerrero's metabolism has not yet adjusted to fighting at 147 pounds, and thus he's fairly fast for a welterweight. But he has never been known for his speed.

MAYWEATHER 5.0 / GUERRERO 3.5

FOOTWORK

Mayweather has impeccable balance and foot placement. He's not as mobile as he was a few years ago, but he manages to move his feet enough in every fight to generally control the distance. Guerrero has underrated footwork. Although he likes to maul his opponents, he pivots well and uses angles when in close.

MAYWEATHER 4.5 / GUERRERO 4.0

POWER (lead hand)

Mayweather's hook isn't his main power punch but it carries enough pop to be used to finish off an opponent who has been worn down (such as Ricky Hatton). Guerrero's right hook is solid but it's not the punch that does the most damage for him.

MAYWEATHER 4.0 / GUERRERO 3.5

POWER (trail hand)

Mayweather's right hand has always been his "money" punch (excuse the pun). It's thrown with bad intentions and though it doesn't carry one-punch KO power, it usually hurts his opponents. Guerrero's straight left is his best punch. Like Mayweather's right hand, it's not a "one-hitter-quitter" but it always does damage.

MAYWEATHER 4.0 / GUERRERO 4.0

JAB

Mayweather works his jab with perfect technique and expert timing. It's a versatile weapon of beauty that dictates the distance and tempo of his fights while setting up his power punches and maneuvers. Guerrero also has an educated jab, which he uses to set up one-two combinations and to get in close to his opponents.

MAYWEATHER 5.0 / GUERRERO 4.5

HOOK

Mayweather uses his hook sparingly. His jab and right hand are his main punches, but he knows how to use his hook, both as a lead and as a follow-up to his jab. Guerrero uses his hook a lot, especially when he's close to his opponent. Guerrero's hook technique is not textbook but he can be sneaky with it.

MAYWEATHER 4.0 / GUERRERO 4.0

CROSS/UPPERCUT

Mayweather is masterful in his delivery of the cross and uppercut. He's economical and deadly accurate with both punches, which he can lead with or use in combinations. Guerrero has a good left cross and uppercut. He's not as accurate or technically sharp with these punches as Mayweather, but he uses them more (especially in the trenches).

MAYWEATHER 5.0 / GUERRERO 4.0

BODYPUNCHING

Mayweather is not known for his body punches, but he sneaks them into his combinations and he's just as accurate with them as he is with his head shots. Guerrero's body attack is an essential part of his offense. He's not clean or accurate with his body shots, but he's persistent and willing to land them anywhere on his opponent's body.

MAYWEATHER 4.0 / GUERRERO 4.5

INFIGHTING SKILLS

Mayweather is at his best when operating from a distance but he's comfortable exchanging punches in close. He doesn't let his hands go much when infighting but he usually lands clean shots when does. Guerrero is at his best when fighting inside, where he isn't afraid to use roughhouse tactics. He's active and ruthless in close.

MAYWEATHER 4.5 / GUERRERO 4.5

ATHLETICISM

Mayweather is one of the most talented athletes in boxing, gifted with speed, reflexes and coordination. There's nothing flashy or dynamic about Guerrero, who makes up for his athletic limitations with determination and durability.

MAYWEATHER 5.0 / GUERRERO 3.5

ENDURANCE

Both fighters are known for their endurance. Mayweather, who always paces himself well, has gone the 12-round distance 13 times. Guerrero, who has terrific stamina, has fought six 12-round bouts, two 10-rounders and one 12-round TKO.

MAYWEATHER 4.5 / GUERRERO 4.5

ABILITY TO SLIP AND BLOCK PUNCHES

Mayweather is the best defensive fighter on the planet. He's not impossible to hit but his mix of reflexes, upper-body movement and blocking ability make it very hard for even elite fighters to land more than one shot at a time. Guerrero tucks his chin fairly well and usually keeps his body at an angle, but he doesn't seem to worry about getting hit flush.

MAYWEATHER 5.0 / GUERRERO 3.5

PHYSICAL CONDITION

Mayweather and Guerrero are completely dedicated to the sport and give their all during training camps, which is why both veterans have no problem fighting the championship distance. Mayweather is fanatical about his preparation. Guerrero has only recently had the luxury of a real training camp, so he takes full advantage of them.

MAYWEATHER 5.0 / GUERRERO 5.0

POISE AND ABILITY TO COPE WITH EXTERNAL PRESSURES

Mayweather seems to thrive in chaotic situations. He can take the heat in the ring and he generally rises to the occasion when he's pressured outside of it. Guerrero has dealt with his wife's well-documented battle with cancer, taking care of his children and numerous starts and stops to his career with admirable grace. His character cannot be questioned.

MAYWEATHER 5.0 / GUERRERO 5.0

KILLER INSTINCT

Mayweather is not a nice guy in or out of the ring. He's happy to punish his opponents and he will go for a KO if the opening presents itself (even if it's a cheap shot), but he seldom tries to force a stoppage. Guerrero is nice out of the ring but he's a relentless beast in it, where brutal tactics such as holding and hitting, hip and kidney shots are part of his inside game. He'll take a KO if it comes, but he's content to beat up a man for 12 rounds (as he did against Andre Berto).

MAYWEATHER 4.0 / GUERRERO 4.5

INTELLIGENCE AND STRATEGIC DEXTERITY

Mayweather is among the sport's smartest tacticians along with Bernard Hopkins and Andre Ward. He's also excellent at modifying his game plan and improvising during a fight. Few active fighters, if any, can adapt as well as Mayweather does. Guerrero is a smarter and more versatile boxer than he's given credit for, but he's more of a hardnosed grinder than a ring tactician.

MAYWEATHER 5.0 / GUERRERO 3.5

CHIN AND RESILIENCE

Neither Mayweather nor Guerrero has ever been knocked out or off his feet in a professional bout; and both have faced their share of tough guys. Mayweather's toughness is underrated, but his defensive skills spare him undue punishment. Guerrero's aggressive style welcomes punishment, but he can take it as well as he dishes it out.

MAYWEATHER 4.5 / GUERRERO 5.0

EXPERIENCE

Mayweather, a 16-year veteran who has defeated 17 major titleholders, has a clear edge in experience against anyone he faces. Guerrero is an 11-year veteran who has faced seven major beltholders.

MAYWEATHER 5.0 / GUERRERO 4.0

QUALITY OF OPPONENTS

Mayweather has fought one current hall of famer (Arturo Gatti), four future first-ballot hall of famers (Oscar De La Hoya, Juan Manuel Marquez, Miguel Cotto and Shane Mosley) and three borderline hall of famers (Genaro Hernandez, Diego Corrales and Ricky Hatton). Guerrero has been in with solid opposition, but the best he has faced was a faded Joel Casamayor.

MAYWEATHER 5.0 / GUERRERO 4.0

CORNER

Both will be trained by their fathers for this fight. Floyd Mayweather Sr. is a far more accomplished

trainer than Ruben Guerrero, but he hasn't worked his son's corner in more than 13 years. Ruben, who has done a terrific job training Guerrero, should have a stronger rapport with his son.

MAYWEATHER 4.5 / GUERRERO 4.5

SUMMARY AND PREDICTION

Mayweather has a clear edge in talent, experience and skill, but he's facing a young veteran who is rugged, savvy and at his physical peak. It won't be an easy night for the aging pound-for-pound king. Mayweather will control the distance and beat Guerrero to the punch in the early rounds but the aggressive challenger will gradually work his way in close while backing up the 36-year-old titleholder with his jab. The middle rounds will be marked by intense infighting as Guerrero works over the older man's arms and body with a high-volume attack and Mayweather zeros in with flush uppercuts and hooks. Guerrero will be able to take Mayweather's best shots, but he won't be able to land his best punches to the odds favorite's head. Mayweather will get off the ropes in the late rounds and take the fight to the center of the ring, where he will land enough clean punches to clinch a competitive but clear unanimous decision.

GRADES AT A GLANCE

MAYWEATHER		GUERRERO
5.0	HAND SPEED	3.5
4.5	FOOTWORK	4.0
4.0	POWER (LEAD HAND)	3.5
4.0	POWER (TRAIL HAND)	4.0
5.0	JAB	4.5
4.0	HOOK	4.0
5.0	CROSS/UPPERCUT	4.0
4.0	BODYPUNCHING	4.5
4.5	INFIGHTING SKILLS	4.5
5.0	ATHLETICISM	3.5
4.5	ENDURANCE	4.5
5.0	ABILITY TO SLIP / BLOCK PUNCHES	3.5
5.0	PHYSICAL CONDITION	5.0
5.0	POISE / COPING WITH EXTERNAL PRESSURE	5.0
4.0	KILLER INSTINCT	4.5
5.0	INTELLIGENCE / STRATEGIC DEXTERITY	3.5
4.5	CHIN / RESILIENCE	5.0
5.0	EXPERIENCE	4.0
5.0	QUALITY OF OPPONENTS	4.0
4.5	CORNER	4.5
92.5	TOTAL	83.5

Scan this code for more on Mayweather and Guerrero
or go to ringtv.craveonline.com/tags/mayweather-guerrero

Image: Bob Levey-Getty

Saul "Canelo" Alvarez made a bold decision when he agreed to fight slick Austin Trout on April 20 at the Alamodome in San Antonio.

CANELO'S GAMBLE

By: **Michael Rosenthal**

No one can accuse Saul Alvarez of avoiding a serious challenge any longer.

"Canelo" could've continued to face what some believe were solid, but flawed opponents for big money. Instead, as if responding to critics, he decided to take on highly regarded Austin Trout on Aug. 20 before a huge crowd at the Alamodome in San Antonio on Showtime.

The move was particularly bold given that Alvarez is given a realistic chance of fighting Floyd Mayweather Jr., which would earn him a windfall.

Some of you will know the result of the fight when you read this, as it falls around the time the June issue of the magazine hits newsstands. Win or lose, though, Alvarez's decision was gutsy and laudable. It was a significant gamble.

Why did he do it?

Some of those close to Alvarez (41-0-1, 30 knockouts) reportedly had qualms about the matchup because of Trout's ability. The slick southpaw from New Mexico dominated naturally smaller but proven veteran Miguel Cotto in December, stark evidence that this is no ordinary opponent. A number of experts even picked Trout to beat Alvarez.

Alvarez took a page out of Max Schmeling's book, though. The German said he "saw something" in the technique of Joe Louis that would allow him to claim victory in 1936. Alvarez said the same thing about Trout (26-0, 14 KOs). He sees something he believes he can exploit, which is an example of unshakeable confidence in himself.

And Alvarez matches up better physically with Trout: Both are legitimate junior middleweights, meaning neither will be able to push the other around.

If Alvarez wins, the gamble will have paid off. He can claim to have beaten a top-tier opponent in his prime, which would make a matchup with Mayweather or any other big-name opponent more marketable.

If Alvarez loses, particularly if he doesn't look good, the Mayweather fight probably would be more difficult to make. It would hardly be catastrophic, though. Alvarez is only 22, a babe by boxing standards. He would be able to bounce back.

The only sure winner will have been the fans. This is a compelling, risky matchup for both fighters, which is all we could've expected. ■

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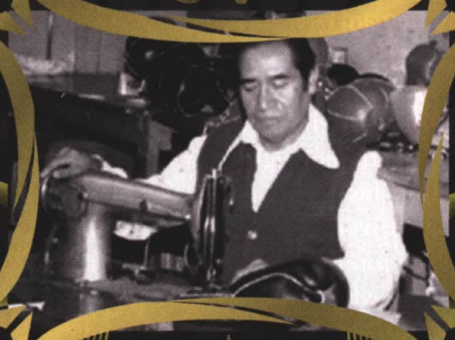

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IN HIS FATHER'S IMAGE

VETERAN ANNOUNCER JIMMY LENNON JR. FOLLOWED HIS FAMOUS DAD INTO THE RING BUT HE IS HIS OWN MAN

By: **Bernard Fernandez**

Had Jimmy Lennon Jr. followed that well-worn other family path, he might now be singing for his supper or at least tickling the ivories for it. He is a cousin of the forever wholesome Lennon Sisters, who harmonized for years on *The Lawrence Welk Show*, and is also a blood relative of the Lennon Brothers, of whom his late father, Jimmy Lennon Sr., was a high-note-hitting Irish tenor. Some of his male cousins are members of a still-active pop band called *Venice*.

"The Lennon family is incredibly talented with singing," said Jimmy Jr., who, at 54, still appears to be as age-resistant as was America's Oldest Teenager, Dick Clark. "My father married someone [the former Doris Link] who also was gifted in that area. Mom studied vocal at Julliard, so there are very rich singing genes in my family.

"Maybe there was a little bit of intimidation with all the great singing that was around me as I was growing up. [He is the youngest of five children.] But the music gene didn't totally pass me up. I can play several instruments pretty well, especially keyboard. I was in a band in high school."

But Lennon Jr. – he always uses the "Junior" out of respect for his father – nonetheless makes his living, and a well-compensated one at that, with his vocal chords. Most people know him as one of the world's two most famous living ring announcers, the other being Michael Buffer, whose style is as different from Lennon's as Elvis Presley's would be from Bing Crosby's. Buffer is male-model handsome (one of his former occupations), dramatic of presentation and larger-than-life of personality.

Ring announcer Jimmy Lennon Jr. is among those who will be inducted into the International Boxing Hall of Fame in June.

Image: Suhaimi Abdullah-Getty

Lennon is the boy next door liked by everyone, with an announcing style that might be described as understated flair. At work, Lennon, the ring announcer for *Showtime Championship Boxing*, comfortably wears tuxedos, but it never seems as if he *lives* in them, which might be the case with Buffer, HBO's house announcer.

"Jimmy gives just enough flair to it," said a longtime family friend and occasional employer, Hall of Fame promoter/matchmaker Don Chargin. "He doesn't overdo it. He's such a terrific, humble kid, and I think that comes through."

John Beyrooty, the former boxing writer for the now-defunct *Los Angeles Herald-Examiner* and the former publicist for Forum Boxing, once described Lennon's style as "classy and simple."

Even Jimmy Jr. himself allows that, in transitioning from his rock-steady everyday persona, a certain metamorphosis is required to elevate his game. In an Oct. 6, 1991, profile in the *Los Angeles Times*, the subject of the piece said, "To be a good announcer you have to be in charge. When I put on my tuxedo and walk from my car to the arena, I change. I've got to make a show of it."

It is a transformation that is eerily reminiscent of Jimmy Sr., the most recognizable ring announcer ever to step between the ropes in Los Angeles and throughout Southern California. There are numerous boxing fans in the region who insist that Jimmy Jr. is the living, breathing incarnation of his father, which the son considers to be the ultimate compliment. If there is a difference between them, it is that Jimmy Jr. will be enshrined in the International Boxing Hall of Fame in Canastota, N.Y., on June 9, an honor that was bestowed upon Buffer in 2012 but to date has yet to be granted the elder Lennon.

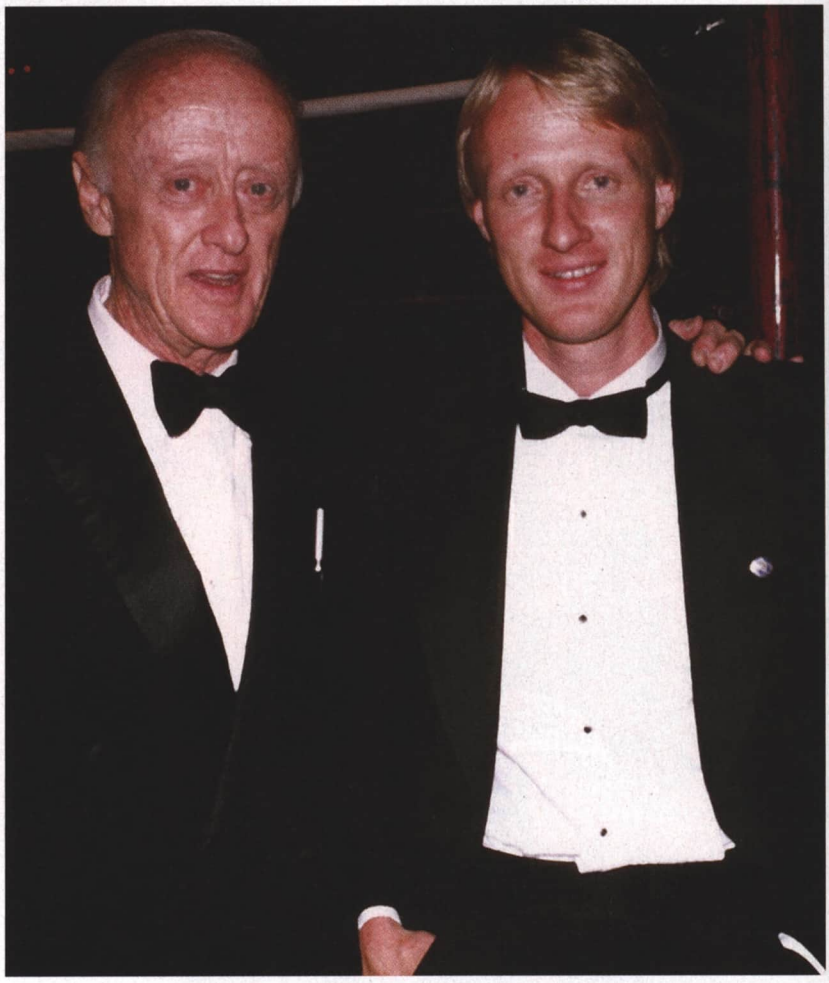


Image: Courtesy of Jimmy Lennon Jr.

The younger Jimmy Lennon includes a "Jr." in his name to honor his famous father.

"It will be emotional," Jimmy Jr. said of his expected reaction to the day he officially joins a highly exclusive IBHOF club that includes only Buffer and the late Joe Humphreys, who was 73 when he died in 1936. Still waiting for a posthumous call to the hall are Lennon Sr. and celebrated New York-based ring announcers Johnny Addie and Harry Balogh.

"My father was so proud of me, I can't even put it into words," Jimmy Jr. continued. "When I got my first megafight, which was Mike Tyson-Buster Douglas in Tokyo in 1990, he literally had tears in his eyes when I told him.

"When he was in the hospital [Jimmy Sr. was 79 when he died of heart failure in April 1992] they didn't have cable TV, but he wanted to hear my announcing of that fight. My mother would call him at his hospital bed and hold the phone by the TV so he could hear my announcing. When I got back from Japan, he told me how thrilled he was. But he was always like that. When I was announcing fights at the Forum, when I came over afterwards, he'd be sleeping in his chair, wake up and he'd have these notes he wanted to go over with me about my announcing. They were always positive."

Now it is time for Jimmy Jr. to speak with moist eyes and the sort of unconditional love that exists between parent and child when their relationship is as strong as was the one between Jimmy Sr. and the son

Jimmy Lennon Jr., pictured with his parents, knew how to look dapper even as an adolescent. Of course, he might've received some help at the time.
Image: Courtesy of Jimmy Lennon Jr.

who followed in his large footsteps.

"He died before I became associated with Showtime, and the 'It's Showtime!' tag line," Jimmy Jr. said. "I think he would have been really happy with that. And now this (induction into the IBHOF). It's just the ultimate.

"So, yeah, (the induction) will be very emotional for me. It'll also be surreal. It's certainly not something I set out to achieve or made a goal. To look back on all the blessings I've received, it'll be a grateful moment, too. There are very few ring announcers who are in the International Boxing Hall of Fame, which brings me to a little bit of an awkward point. I really feel like my father should be in there. I would like to address that [in his acceptance remarks], but not in an inappropriate way.

"My dad was a great, great ring announcer who set the standard in so many ways, but there wasn't the sort of television coverage of the sport then as there is now. I travel all over the world, and my announcing is seen and heard in many countries. My dad's work was in and around Los Angeles, although he did some traveling, primarily to Las Vegas. My role is so much different."

Somewhat ironically, Jimmy Sr. never set out to become what he became. He expected to sing at a nightclub in 1943, but when he arrived at the venue, he discovered that the evening's entertainment had been switched from music to boxing. The management needed someone to serve as the ring announcer and, well, of such twists of fate is history sometimes made.

The slightly built Jimmy Sr. brought a distinctive flourish to the task, which opened the door to a long run as one of the few ring announcers who became as famous – and in some cases more so – than the main-event fighters he introduced. He manned the microphone in dozens of movies and television shows with boxing themes, including *Raging Bull* and the remake of *Kid Galahad*, with Elvis. And Jimmy Jr. was along for most of the ride.

"His father was truly special," Chargin, then a matchmaker for promoter Aileen Eaton, said of Jimmy Sr.'s ring announcing at Los Angeles' famed Olympic Auditorium. "If there was a bad decision and the crowd got unruly, he'd burst into a song and quiet everybody right down. I saw him do that I don't know how many times. I'll never forget the night fans were throwing coins and all kinds of stuff into the ring when Jimmy Sr. started singing a song in Spanish. The tension just lifted.

"When Jimmy Jr. – I still call him Jamie – was a young kid, he'd get in the ring with his dad and announce a few preliminary fights. Father and son were always real close. Jimmy Sr. was very, very proud of him. He'd say, 'There's my successor. He's going to be a great announcer someday.' He told me that a hundred times if he told me once. He really believed that would be the case."

But, as deep as his love for his father and of boxing was, Jimmy Jr. had another vision of how his future would unfold. He graduated with a degree in psychology from UCLA and took a job as a teacher at a small private school, a laudable career in which he expected to spend his entire working life. Ring announcing, he now says, was more of a hobby then, something to pick up some extra cash while paying

LENNON, BUFFER: 'MUTUAL RESPECT AS COLLEAGUES'

It has not escaped Jimmy Lennon Jr.'s notice that Jimmy Sr. is not the only ring announcer to whom he is compared. There is Michael Buffer, who some would call the Hertz to Jimmy Jr.'s Avis.

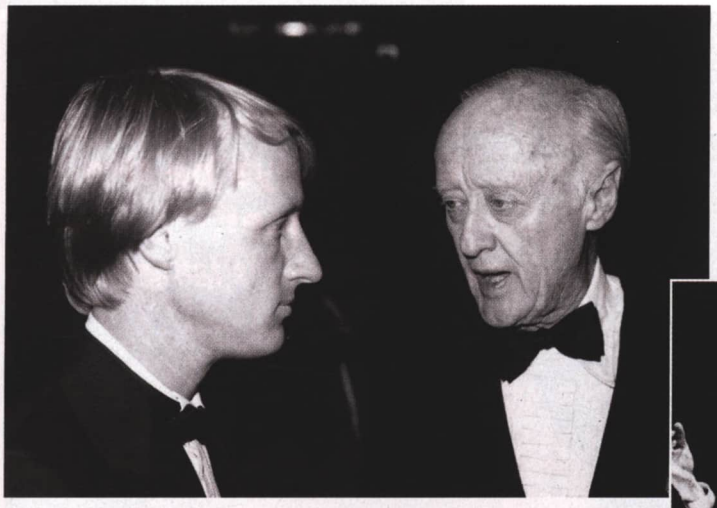
"In L.A., Southern California and Latin America, if you ask boxing fans who they prefer, they would choose Jimmy over Michael," said Top Rank CEO Bob Arum, who has worked with both. "In the rest of the country and the rest of the world, they would say Michael.

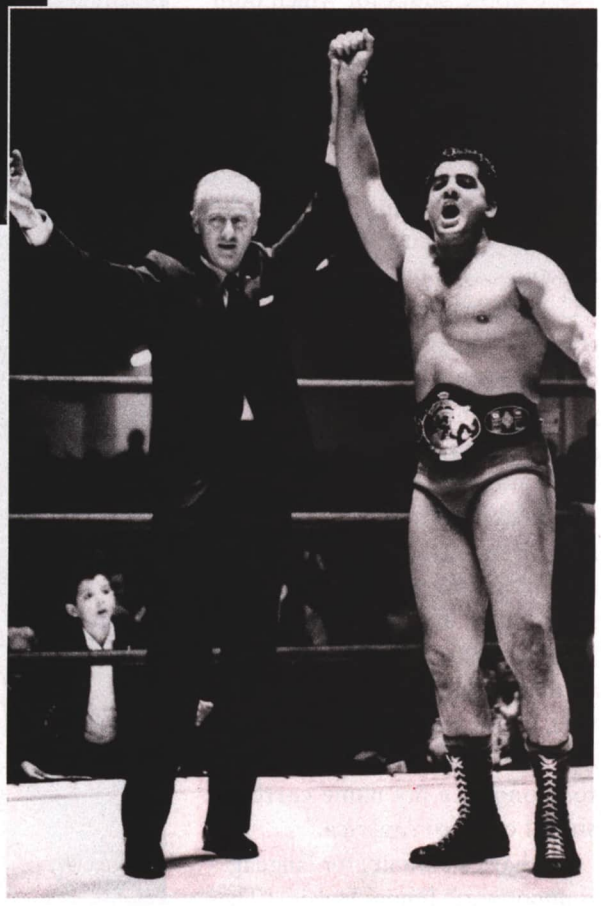
"I don't think there's any big competition. I think they're aware of each other, obviously, because they're both boxing fans, and I'm pretty sure they watch fights where the other guy is the ring announcer. Do they mentally make critiques? Absolutely."

Jimmy Jr. said that pretty much is the case.

"I believe there's a mutual respect as colleagues," he said. "We actually worked a couple of fights together. For the Chiquita Gonzales-Michael Carbajal fight, Carbajal had himself introduced by Buffer and I introduced Gonzales. We did the same thing for Mike Tyson-Lennox Lewis; Buffer introduced Lewis and I introduced Tyson. But we don't see each other that often because we're almost always booked in different places.

"Certainly, there's a little bit of competition because there aren't that many announcers who do the big fights. I'm appreciative of some of the inroads that he's made. I think it's been a positive thing for me."





Clockwise from top, Lennon Jr. didn't have to go far to get advice on ring announcing; Lennon Sr. also announced wrestling matches; Lennon Sr. with a microphone in his hand was a common site in the Los Angeles area for many years.
Images: Courtesy of Jimmy Lennon Jr.

homage to his father's legacy.

"I never wanted to be so reliant on boxing and the whims of promoters and television stations that I might be stuck in a bad place," Jimmy Jr. said. "I wanted to have something I could always fall back on. Being a teacher, to be honest, was much more rewarding in some ways. It was something I considered to be of service to young people. I enjoyed it and I felt that I was doing something important. Announcing was a sidelight and I loved it, so I think it was a nice balance.

"I kept doing both things as long as I could, but it just became too difficult with all the travel in boxing. I just didn't feel it was fair to the school to be away so much."

So here Jimmy Jr. stands, at once the reincarnation of his legendary dad and yet his own man. He not only has filled those large shoes, but outgrown them to some extent.

"For so many years I would hear, 'I remember your father,'" Jimmy Jr. said. "I just love that. It's a great compliment when people compare me to him, and it's something I never take for granted.

"But more and more now, which shocked me at first, there are people who come up to me and say, 'I heard that your dad announced, too.' That's such a funny thing to hear.

"As you get older, you begin to take pride in your own accomplishments. I don't know if my statistics, or whatever you'd call them, have surpassed his. Maybe they have. But to me, he'll always be the greatest announcer."

One thing is assured: Jimmy Jr. will never drop the suffix to his name. He made that pledge years ago, and he's kept it. He says he always will keep it.

"One time I was introduced on TV as Jimmy Lennon," Jimmy Jr. recalled. "My father was watching on TV and he told me later, 'Boy, while I'm alive, I sure would like it for them to have the 'Junior' on there.' So I've always made sure that that was the case, even after my dad died.

"But you know, it is kind of

strange. I really don't feel the need to constantly compare myself to him. I am my own man. I do feel like I learned my trade from the very best, and I happened to get some very good genes, but we are not exactly the same in every way."

One of the things for which both Lennons are known is the precise way in which they announce the names of fighters, referees, judges and boxing officials, especially those with Spanish surnames. It's a big reason the bilingual Jimmy Jr., like his father, is so beloved by Hispanic audiences.

Consider the tale of Jimmy Sr. emceeing a Greek-American awards dinner, with one of the trophies going to a man whose name was – gulp – Anastasios Honchopathadurkomontorogiotopolous.

"I broke it down into syllables and then put it back together again," Jimmy Sr. told the *Times*, referring to one of his more challenging tasks. The recipient came to the podium after the introduction, kissed Jimmy Sr. on the cheek and said, "You are the only person to pronounce my name correctly since I come to America."

"To have an affinity for languages is important," Jimmy Jr. said. "That was instilled in me by my father. I take the time to talk to the fighters if I don't know them and find out the pronunciation of their names, their nicknames, what hometown they're from – everything that's important to them. They are, after all, the ones putting their lives on the line. There's nothing more sweet to a man's ear than to hear his name pronounced properly."

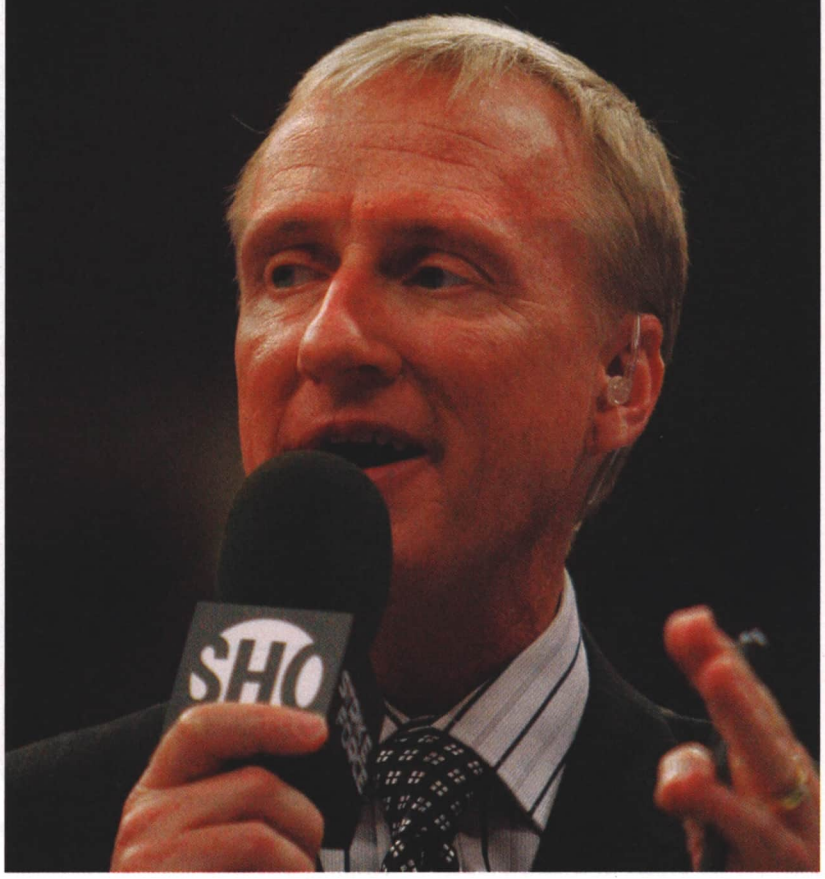
It is not beyond the realm of possibility that the Lennon legacy will continue well into the future. Jimmy Jr. and wife Christine have two sons, James III, 16, and Alexander, 13, and their father admits to dreaming that one or both will take up his craft as he once took up Jimmy Sr.'s.

"They both love boxing," Jimmy Jr. noted. "All sports, actually. I've thought about it, and how it would really be something for them to (announce) something very low-key, maybe some amateur tournaments. But it's not much on their minds at this point."

If James III and Alexander decide to follow their father into the ring, one can imagine strong but silky voices and perfect pronunciation of all words regardless of language. That's the family tradition. ■

"As you get older, you begin to take pride in your own accomplishments. ... But to me, he'll always be the greatest announcer.

— Jimmy Lemon Jr., about his father



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Victor Ortiz is doing a different kind of footwork (with partner Lindsay Arnold) on the reality television show *Dancing With the Stars.*
Image: Image: Courtesy of ABC

FOOTLOOSE!

VICTOR ORTIZ IS FINDING A NICHE IN THE ENTERTAINMENT WORLD – INCLUDING *DANCING WITH THE STARS* – IN SPITE OF PROBLEMS IN THE RING

By: **Bart Barry**

Four years ago Victor Ortiz stood in Staples Center in Los Angeles, the skin under his left eye shiny and taut as if a large grape were pushing out from underneath it. He also had a deep cut between the brow and the lid of his other eye, caused by Marcos Maidana's left hand. After graciously complimenting his opponent, Ortiz smiled goofily, decided he had had enough and said, "I don't think I deserve to be getting beat up like this."

What if he was right?

Lost in the umbrage of aficionados' post-fight analysis of that night, more concerned with the peculiar interview than the fantastic fight that preceded it, was a possibility Ortiz raised: Nobody deserves to get beat up like he'd been – even if it is prizefighting's tariff – but a charismatic, sensitive person like Ortiz deserves it least of all.

"In the moment, I said what I said, and hey, if I wouldn't have said it, I guess I wouldn't have meant it," Ortiz now says about his first infamous moment in the ring. "I don't apologize for it. The fans killed me and destroyed me for it – 'Oh, you gave up,' this and that. At the same time, look, I am a person who's given enough knowledge to understand and realize when something's going wrong. And that's that."

Ortiz believes he does not deserve to get beat up like he was beat up that night by Maidana, just as he surely believes he did not deserve to

Image: Kevork Djansezian-Getty

Ortiz decided he wanted to pursue *Dancing With the Stars* while in the hospital after breaking his jaw against Josesito Lopez (left).

get sucker punched by Floyd Mayweather Jr. in 2011 or have his jaw broken by Josesito Lopez last June. With a role in the 16th season of ABC's Dancing with the Stars program, representation from Beverly Hills' Gersh Agency and two movies set to be made this summer, Ortiz may prove himself right.

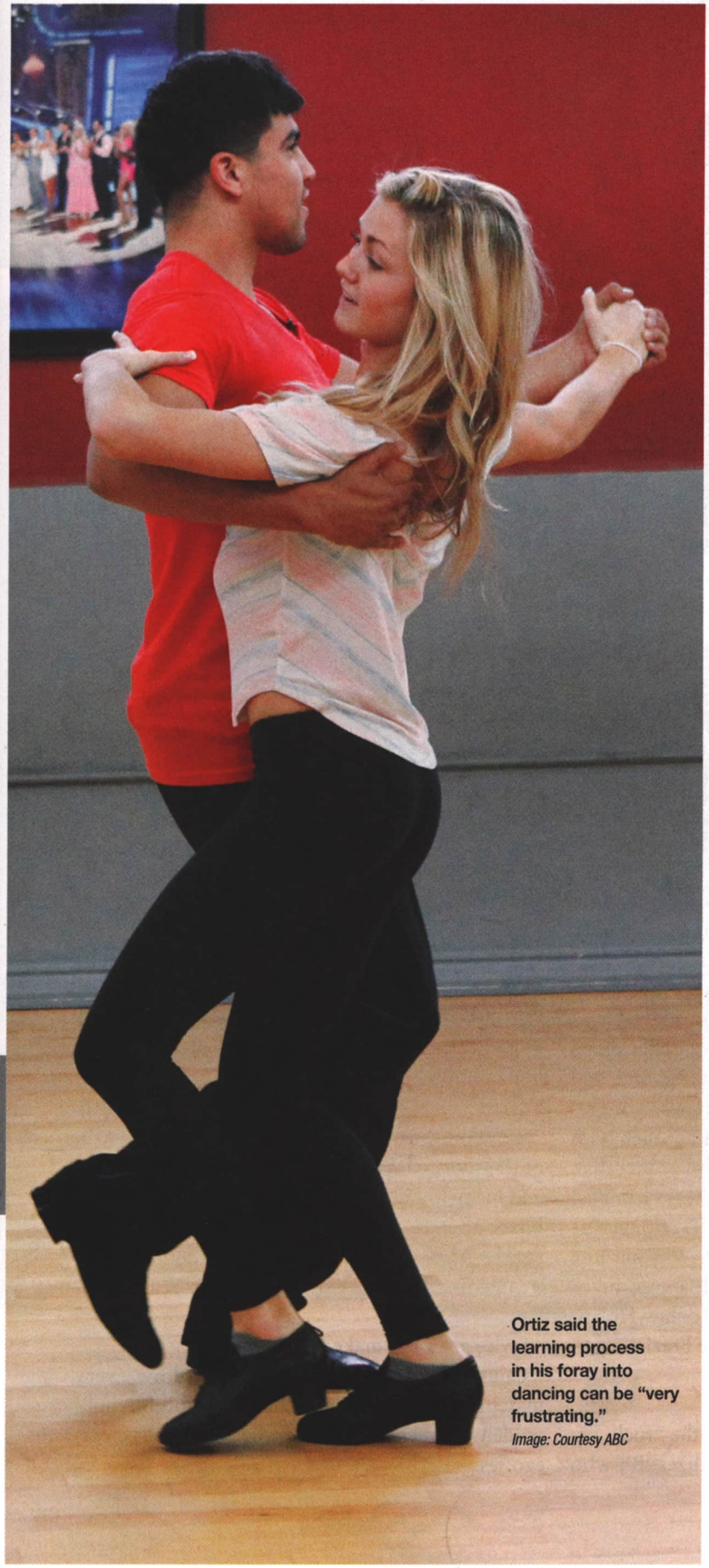
Dancing with the Stars began its pursuit of Ortiz while he was in camp for his pay-per-view fight with Mayweather, one that ended when Mayweather, enkindled by Ortiz's spearing him with an intentional head butt, caught Ortiz going for a third apologetic hug and dropped him with a 1-2. Dancing with the Stars inquired again while Ortiz was in training camp for a subsequently canceled rematch of 2011's brawl with Andre Berto. Then the makeshift match with Lopez happened, Ortiz's jaw got broken and the dancing idea returned to Ortiz in a characteristically odd way.

"I'm not a Canelo, I'm not a Chavez. I'm Victor Ortiz."

"Once they broke my jaw that night," he said, "I just remember at the hospital, I looked at my management team, and my jaw's just hanging, and I said, 'Daunthing Wuh Tha Stauhs?'

"They looked at me, and they're like, 'Did you really just say that?' So we heal, and next thing you know, they got me on Dancing with the Stars."

A lifetime of boxing prepared Or-



Ortiz said the learning process in his foray into dancing can be "very frustrating."
Image: Courtesy ABC

tiz for long, rigorous days, but not the frustration he's found in preparing to dance on television.

"You have to take your time. You have to re-collect. You mess up, you can't hit anything. It's very frustrating," Ortiz said of his rehearsals with partner Lindsay Arnold, a winner of dancing's United States Open Youth Latin Championships. "I get so overwhelmed and frustrated."

Ortiz's entrepreneurial spirit, since being told by a jaw specialist he was out of boxing for at least a year, also brought him to a skincare line for men, salaciously named Face-Lube. The product's first commercial, a YouTube release that finds Ortiz changing his car's lubricant before encouraging basketball-court bystanders to lube their faces, has been panned by writers.

"Always, they criticize," Ortiz said. "Obviously in boxing, everything I do outside of boxing is foul, it's wrong, it's not common. Hey, well, guess what? Too bad. Sorry I'm not sorry.

"Even when Oscar De La Hoya used to fight, people never talked good about him – he's a good person, he means no harm. Regardless, I heard people talk about him when I was a kid: 'He's a wannabe white boy,' he's this, he's that.

"But in the end, I saw a very smart individual who made a lot of money, who made a lot of right choices, who made his brand, who made his legacy."

Ortiz remains one of our sport's biggest characters. He trains maniacally and comes to every fight in proper trim. His matches' caprices are equaled only by their violence. And his interviews are always unguarded, often bizarrely so.

"I'm not a Canelo, I'm not a Chavez," he says. "I'm Victor Ortiz."

Boxing would be a better place with more Victor Ortizes. ■

The Alchemy of Boxing

By: **Brian Harty and Doug Fischer**

'STYLES MAKE FIGHTS' IS AMONG THE MOST COMMON PHRASES IN BOXING, BUT IT'S MORE THAN JUST TALK

Spend any time around the sport of boxing and it won't be long before you hear someone say, "Styles make fights."

TV analysts frequently drop it into their ringside observations. Robert Guerrero offered it as the entire argument for why he should fight Floyd Mayweather Jr. In boxing gyms, the prophecies and pound-for-pound musings from one person are often answered with the phrase from another, with both agreeing there's not much left to say after that.

Why has Juan Manuel Marquez always troubled Manny Pacquiao while the bigger, harder punchers were dominated by the Filipino icon? Why did Jose Luis Castillo give Mayweather such a hard time? How was Iran Barkley able to beat Tommy Hearns twice? Why was Muhammad Ali-Joe Frazier a perfect storm?

Styles make fights.

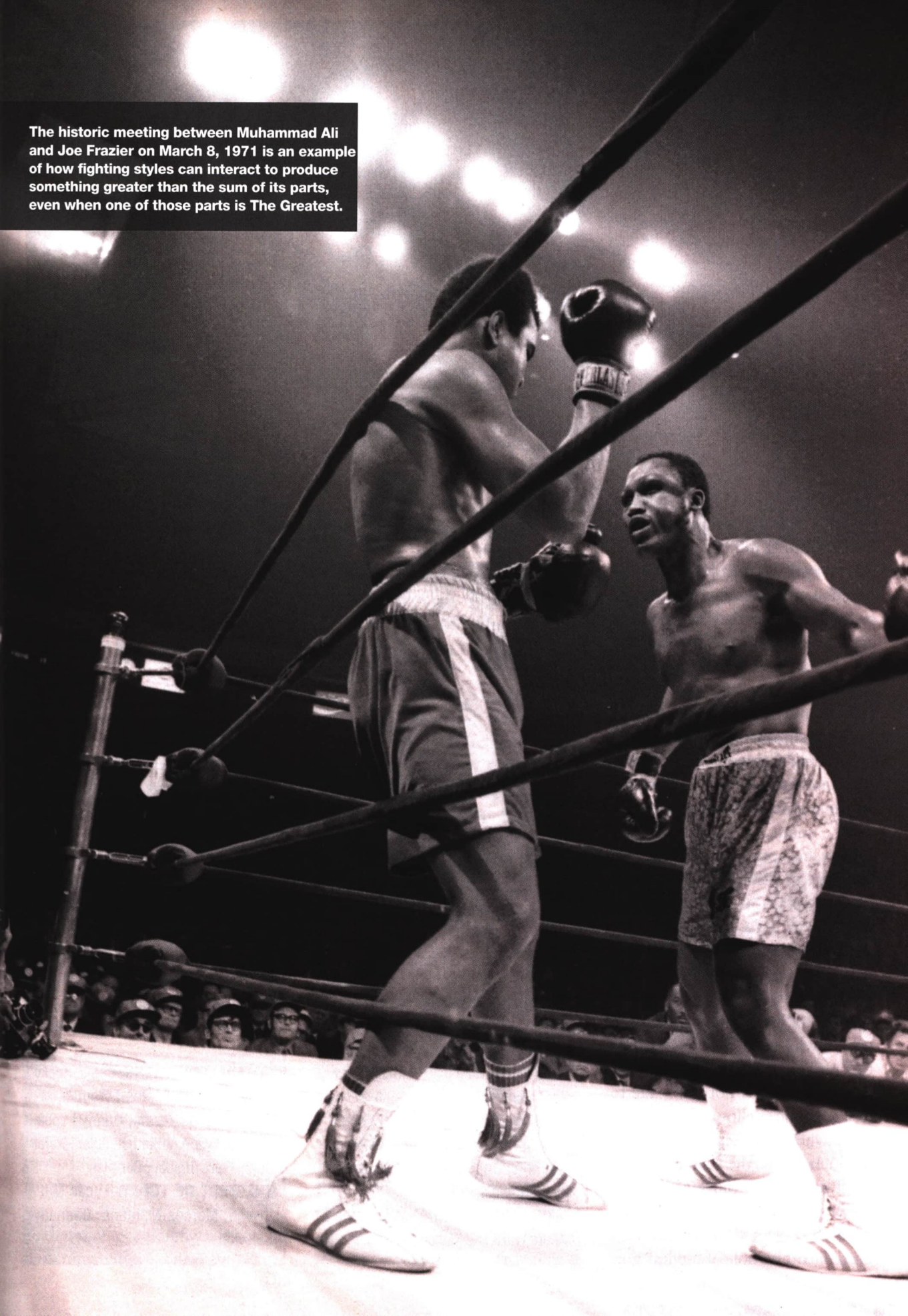
In one sense, it's a game in itself – the "rock, paper, scissors" of boxing: 'A' neutralizes 'B', who smashes 'C', who gives 'A' fits. Frazier, who gave Ali hell, was obliterated by George Foreman, who was dissected by Ali.

In another sense, it's the Alpha and Omega, the Grand Unification Theory. It is the study of cause and effect, of actions and reactions which determine both the winner and entertainment value of a bout.

Brandon Rios, one of the premier action fighters of the sport, was ineffective against Richard Abril and lucky to receive a split decision over the crafty boxer after 12 forgettable rounds. But when Rios faced a fellow slugger in Mike Alvarado, fans were treated to a breathtaking Fight of the Year candidate.

Styles are what make or break a fight.

Countless variables play a role in how every matchup plays out. The alchemy behind boxing's golden rule begins, however, with four basic categories.



The historic meeting between Muhammad Ali and Joe Frazier on March 8, 1971 is an example of how fighting styles can interact to produce something greater than the sum of its parts, even when one of those parts is The Greatest.

STYLES

Style is similar to personality – given the choice between a set of picks and a sledgehammer, how does one attempt to open a locked door?

Few fighters are so predictable that they follow one style to the letter. Some are hybrids, presenting the characteristics of two or more styles and perhaps having the ability to drift between them. Miguel Cotto, for example, can be effective when pressing his opponents or boxing on his toes. Evander Holyfield and Shane Mosley are difficult to define.

Some boxers change their styles for one fight. Diego Corrales, the quintessential fearless, stalking puncher, worked his jab from the outside and exhibited patience to win his rematch with Joel Casamayor. Others completely change their styles to prolong their careers. The early Marco Antonio Barrera was the best Mexican pressure fighter since Julio Cesar Chavez, but he evolved into a master boxer following his first loss to Junior Jones.

And then there are the X-factors that create sub-types: whether the fighter is defense- or offense-minded, the quality of his chin, his durability, his aptitude for fighting on the inside or the outside, whether he is orthodox or southpaw, etc.

However, a fighter's dominant style will generally fall into one of four categories:

BOXER: A "boxer" is, of course, a person who practices boxing. That this one style is given the name of the sport itself is both homage to its roots and a show of respect to those who wear the label. They are the locksmiths, the scholars of the craft most commonly associated with "skill."

No other class illustrates just how deep the rabbit hole of "styles" goes with all the variations that exist – offensive or defensive specialists, counterpunchers, stick and movers, technicians. Their goal is to win every round with brains and not necessarily brawn. But there are exceptions: Some boxers are punchers in disguise, and the skills they unleash on their opponents are a means of befuddling them into position for the KO. What sets a "boxer-puncher" (such as the great Sugar Ray Robinson, or Vitali and Wladimir Klitschko) apart from a "puncher who can box" (such as Hearns) is that they are boxers first; in the case of the Klitschkos the KO result seems inevitable, but they rarely "go for it."

Images: TK

Iran Barkley proved against Thomas Hearns that a slugger can match up well with a puncher. Barkley stopped Hearns in three rounds in 1988.

- **NOTABLE BOXERS**: Benny Leonard, Billy Conn, Robinson, Willie Pep, Ali, Sugar Ray Leonard, Salvador Sanchez, Hector Camacho, Pernell Whitaker. Varieties: Roy Jones Jr. and Manny Pacquiao (dynamic boxer-puncher), Marvin Hagler and Bernard Hopkins (technician), Toney and Marquez (counterpuncher).
- **THE BEST OF TODAY:** Mayweather, Andre Ward, the Klitschko brothers.

PUNCHER: These are fighters who are not only gifted with power, but are hungry to use it. They unapologetically seek to knock out their opponents and they don't mind losing rounds in the process. Why worry about scorecards when you bring your own judges to the fight?

However, just because a puncher can turn a fight with a single shot does not mean he leaves his brain in the dressing room. Punchers can have high levels of skill and ring generalship. Many of the most celebrated punchers of the past 50 years – including Joe Louis, Foreman, Alexis Arguello, Hearns and Mike Tyson – wielded world-class jabs and possessed underrated technique. But it was their desire to land a fight-ending punch and to doggedly pursue a stoppage once their opponents were hurt that defined them and made them special to fans.

NOTABLE PUNCHERS: Louis, Rocky Marciano, Bob Foster, Foreman, Arguello, Carlos Zarate, Danny Lopez, Hearns, Tyson, Julian Jackson, Nigel Benn, Felix Trinidad, Corrales.
THE BEST OF TODAY: Lucas Matthysse, Marcos Maidana, Gennady Golovkin

Choose one fighter from the blue and the other from the red, and where they meet is the matchup.

	SLUGGER	PRESSURE FIGHTER	PUNCHER	BOXER
BOXER	B's defense and mobility give him the advantage	A well-conditioned PF can win, but can be trumped by intelligent B with good defense	Favors B, but P's ower can end the fight at any time	A chess game that can result in garbage or all-time classic
PUNCHER	P has raw power to win, but S's will can beat inferior technique	PF's style plays into P's game, but a good chin can tip the balance	Better skill and technique usually wins – or best chin	
PRESSURE FIGHTER	Best power and chin wins; busier fighter usually gets decision	It all depends on volume, power and conditioning		
SLUGGER	It's simple: whoever is left standing, wins			

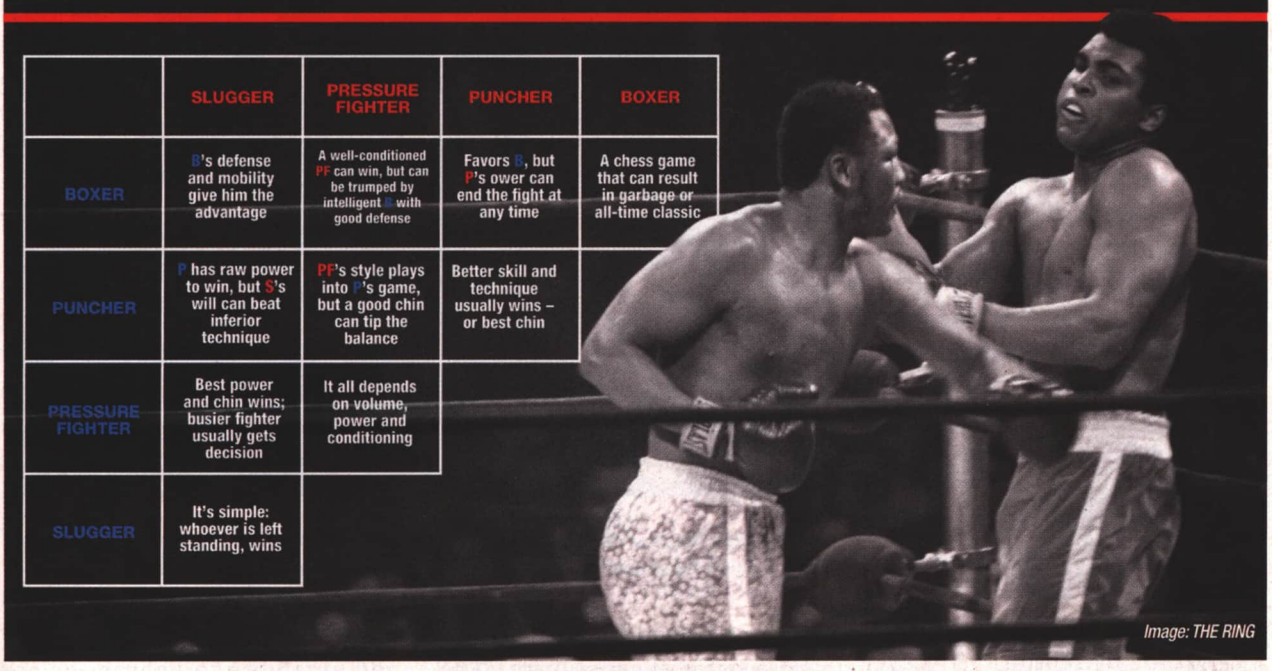


Image: THE RING

Image: Al Bello-Getty

Mexican Julio Cesar Chavez (left, fighting rival Meldrick Taylor) was one of the best pressure fighters of his or any time.

PRESSURE FIGHTER: In the 1957 film *12 Angry Men*, director Sidney Lumet started with all-encompassing wide-angle shots and gradually progressed to claustrophobic telephoto lenses in order to create the impression of a shrinking jury room. The goal of this technique was to create one thing: pressure. Likewise, the pressure fighter's goal is to gradually make the ring smaller. Aggressive by nature, he must be in supreme condition because he is always advancing, always working. Some, like Frazier, rush their opponents, seeking to immediately smother and overwhelm them. Others, such as Chavez, deftly cut off the ring, gradually breaking their opposition down as they do so. Pressure fighters do their best work in close, so they have to be competent infighters and many are good body punchers, but this does not mean they are unable to work a jab or land punches from the outside. The most formidable pressure fighters are volume punchers with high work rates because they are often able dictate the pace of the fight.

NOTABLE PRESSURE FIGHTERS: Jack Dempsey, Frazier, Dwight Muhammad Qawi, Chavez, Wayne McCullough, Dariusz Michalczewski, Glen Johnson, Ricky Hatton.
THE BEST OF TODAY: Orlando Salido, Leo Santa Cruz, Carl Frampton, Alfredo Angulo.

SLUGGER: Also called a "brawler," but you could just as easily leave it at "fighter." Their hands are heavy and their wills indomitable, though they lack the one-strike KO power of a puncher or the tactics of a pressure fighter. This is not to dispar-

age the slugger, though, because they often do what they do at the expense of under-utilized boxing ability and athleticism. It's just not as important to them as throwing down. They are the entertainers, the ones you'll see grinning through the blood after a fight in which they may have just lost the ability to see straight for days. It doesn't matter; when the microphone is presented to them, they'll say it: "I just love to fight."

NOTABLE SLUGGERS: Henry Armstrong, Rocky Graziano, Matthew Saad Muhammad, Bobby Chacon, Aaron Pryor, Barkley, Arturo Gatti, Erik Morales, Israel Vazquez
THE BEST OF TODAY: Brandon Rios, Marco Huck, Chris Arreola.

MATCHUPS

There are 10 possible matchups to be made between the aforementioned categories, and that's before getting into all the permutations of each style. Here's how some of them mesh (or clash).

BOXER VS. PUNCHER: Probably the one you hear most preceded by "classic." It favors the boxer, because the puncher's inclination to advance – without smothering or setting the pace as a pressure fighter would – is like a gift on the boxer's doorstep. The puncher is dead-set on throwing power shots, but to do so he has to plant his feet, which is simple to read and makes him less mobile, more plodding – an easy target. In crude terms, it's a fencer vs. a caveman. But the wild card is the puncher's ability to end the fight at any time if he manages to connect; if he can withstand the punishment he'll take in getting there, he can beat the boxer. For his part, the boxer must avoid letting his intelligence and versatility lull him into a false sense of superiority. (The classic example of this is Conn's 13th-round fall to Louis after having outboxed the Brown Bomber for 12 rounds in their first bout.)

Image: Andrew Bernstein-Getty

The puncher Thomas Hearns (left) went 0-1-1 against the boxer Sugar Ray Leonard but many believe he should've been awarded the decision in their rematch.

NOTABLE MATCHUPS: Louis-Conn I, Ali-Foreman, Leonard-Hearns I and II, Larry Holmes-Gerry Cooney, Sanchez-Lopez I and II, Camacho-Edwin Rosario, Tyson-Buster Douglas, Mayweather-Corrales, Jermain Taylor-Kelly Pavlik I
RECENT: Amir Khan-Marcos Maidana, Zab Judah-Matthysse, Alexander-Matthysse, John Molina Jr.-Henry Lundy.

BOXER VS. PRESSURE FIGHTER: Some of the most memorable fights from the 20th and 21st centuries have been of this variety. The pressure fighter attempts to set the tempo of the fight, put the boxer on the defensive and eventually smother him, while the boxer tries to control the distance between himself and the pressure fighter. As a result, given an equal level of skill on both sides, this is an even matchup. Durability and an ability to fight inside are huge assets to the boxer, and he also needs a solid defense and a good enough chin to weather the storm whenever punches sneak through. But his biggest advantage is that he already knows his opponent's game plan: Move forward. Conditioning is essential for the pressure fighter to counteract this weakness. When it goes to the cards, there is often a debate about who won – the boxer's supporters claim "effective punching" while the pressure fighter's camp touts "effective aggression." (The rematch between Johnny Tapia and Paul Ayala, and Ayala's first bout with Bones Adams, are good examples of this common post-fight dispute.)

NOTABLE MATCHUPS: The Ali-Frazier trilogy, Chavez-Meldrick Taylor I, Whitaker-Chavez, Tapia-Ayala I, Toney-Vassiliy Jirov.
RECENT: Cotto-Antonio Margarito I and II, Marquez-Juan Diaz I, Mayweather-Hatton, Delvin Rodriguez-Pawel Wolak I.

BOXER VS. BOXER: The best and the worst. The purists love it, though sometimes the fighters themselves don't. It can be sleep-inducing if both combatants are defensive or just looking to counterpunch, or it can be a mind-bending wizards' battle. There are many permutations of this matchup, but the typical progression involves jostling for position, with each fighter trying to establish a jab and gauging the other's timing, looking for patterns. There's a learning curve for the opening rounds, and risk-taking emerges gradually. The goal is to neutralize, not overwhelm, and then break down the opponent.

Specific styles tend to trouble others. Aggressive hardnosed technicians, such as Hagler or Castillo, are poison for most boxers, even the ultra-talented likes of Leonard and Mayweather. Unorthodox boxers can throw off classic stand-up boxers due to their unpredictable moves. Randy Turpin, an awkward and rugged boxer with brute strength, outpointed Robinson in one of the sport's biggest upsets, then gave him hell in their rematch.

Two strong-willed, skilled boxers can produce spectacular results, though, as in the first bout between Leonard and Roberto Duran or the heavyweight showdown between Holmes and Ken Norton.

NOTABLE MATCHUPS: Robinson-Turpin I and II, the Ali-Norton trilogy, Holmes-Norton, Leonard-Duran I and II, Whitaker-Buddy McGirt I and II, Toney-Mike McCallum I, II and III.
RECENT: Mayweather-Judah, Mayweather-Marquez, Bradley-Lamont Peterson, Bradley-Alexander, Khan-Peterson, Pacquiao-Bradley, Pacquiao-Marquez I, II, III and IV, Ward-Dawson.

Image: Al Bello-Getty

Defensive wizard Floyd Mayweather Jr. (left) was ultimately able to handle Miguel Cotto's mix of pressure and boxing. Below, When two sluggers meet, like in the first fight between Brandon Rios (left) and Mike Alvarado, the result is often explosive.

Image: Naoki Fukuda

PUNCHER VS. SLUGGER: This volatile matchup can produce explosive results (see: Vazquez-Rafael Marquez series). The puncher has the raw power to destroy the slugger, particularly if he possesses good technique. As valiant as Chacon and Rafael "Bazooka" Limon were, both were chopped up to TKO stoppages by the sharp-shooting Arguello. However, when Chacon faced a raw, defensively challenged puncher in "Little Red" Lopez, he got

the better of his fellow L.A. attraction. Sometimes the slugger's will is so strong he finds a way to beat a puncher with superior technique, as Vazquez did to Marquez in their rematch and rubber match, and as Barkley did against Hearns, who he knocked out with a Hail Mary punch in their first fight and then outworked him in their thrilling rematch. However, when Barkley fought Nigel Benn, he was dropped three times and stopped in the first round when the British puncher struck first.

NOTABLE MATCHUPS: Louis-Tony Galento, Quarry-Ernie Shavers, Chacon-Lopez, Lopez-Mike Ayala, Pryor-Arguello I and II, Hearns-Barkley I and II, Benn-Barkley, Tyson-Clifford Etienne.
RECENT: Vazquez-Marquez I, II and II; Maidana-Soto Karass, Adonis Stevenson-Donovan George.

PUNCHER VS. PUNCHER: Few matchups capture the imagination of fans as the prospect of two KO artists clashing. It goes without saying that this combustible matchup usually ends with the referee's arms waving in the air. The puncher with the better skill and technique generally wins out, although sometimes it just comes down to who can take a better shot.

NOTABLE MATCHUPS: Zarate-Alfonso Zamora, Zarate-Wilfredo Gomez, Hearns-Pipino Cuevas, Tyson-Donovan "Razor" Ruddock I, Jackson-Gerald McClellan I and II, Benn-McClellan, Trinidad-Yory Boy Campas.
RECENT: "JuanMa" Lopez-Daniel Ponce de Leon, Roman Gonzalez-Juan Francisco Estrada.

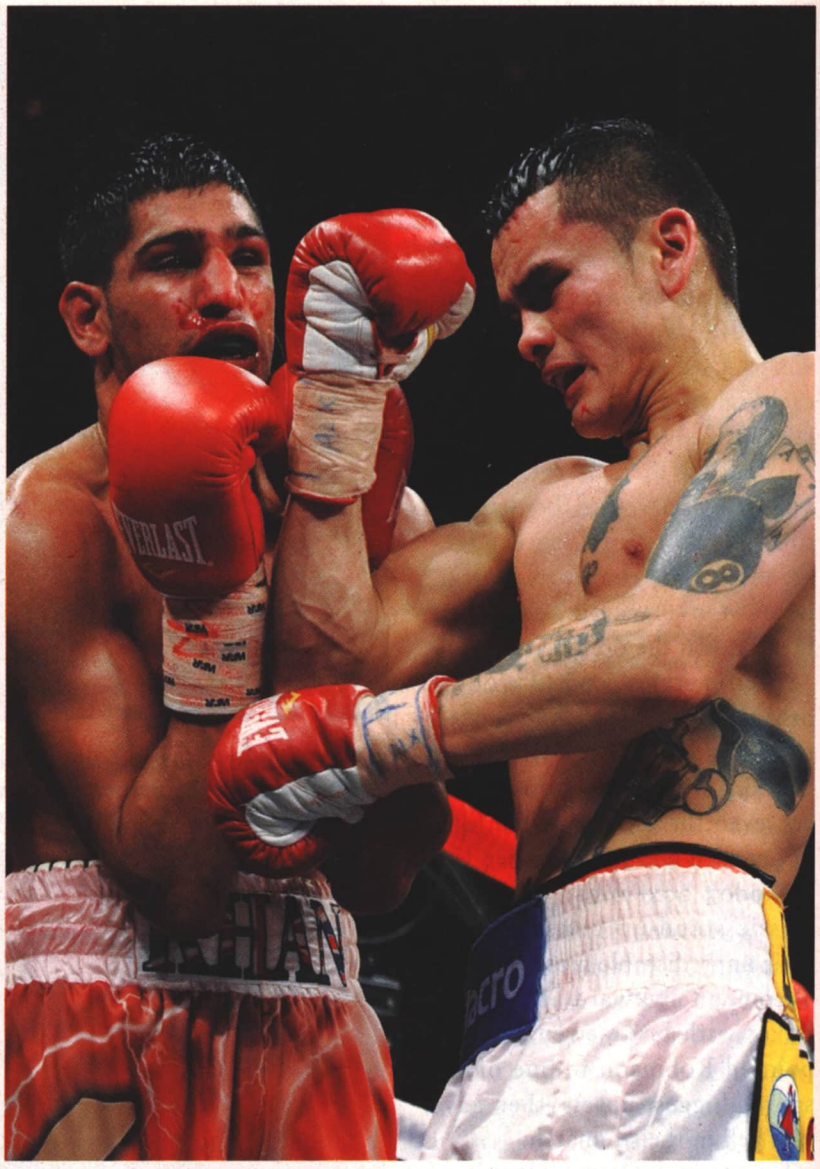


Image: Gabriel Bouys-AFP-Getty

The boxer (Amir Khan, left) prevailed in this case, but was nearly overcome by the power of the puncher (Marcos Maidana).

A puncher vs. a pressure fighter is often explosive, like Foreman-Frazier I and II. A boxer in the ring with a slugger is a dramatic contest of will against skill. Two pressure fighters facing each other is rare but intense, while a pressure fighter vs. a slugger is a crowd-pleasing combination for the bloodthirsty masses. For the remaining matchup, this simple equation says it all: slugger + slugger = the eponymous "slugfest" (see: Gatti-Ward trilogy).

The preceding pages represent only a dog paddle in the surf of a much larger sea, and that's the beauty of it. Once you go beyond the basic styles there is a vast array of subtleties to consider, and every one of them can affect the dynamic of a fight, depending on what emerges from the opposite corner.

It's why "styles make fights" is such an enduring phrase – it says so much. In the hands of someone who wields them well, these three syllables are a map to the history, the techniques, and the lessons of the Sweet Science.

Who knows who said it first, but whoever did said it well. ■

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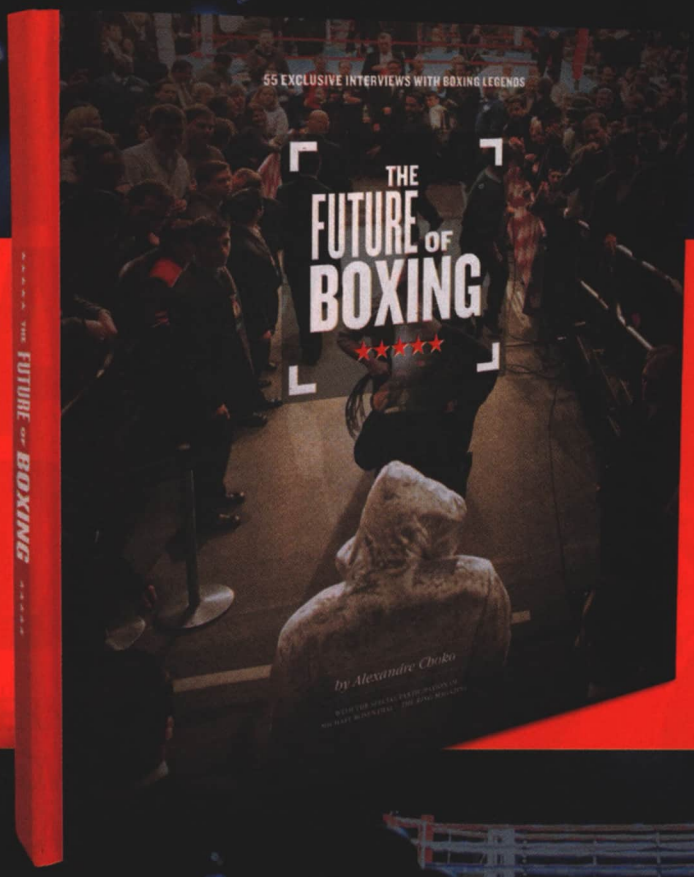

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YET ANOTHER DAWN

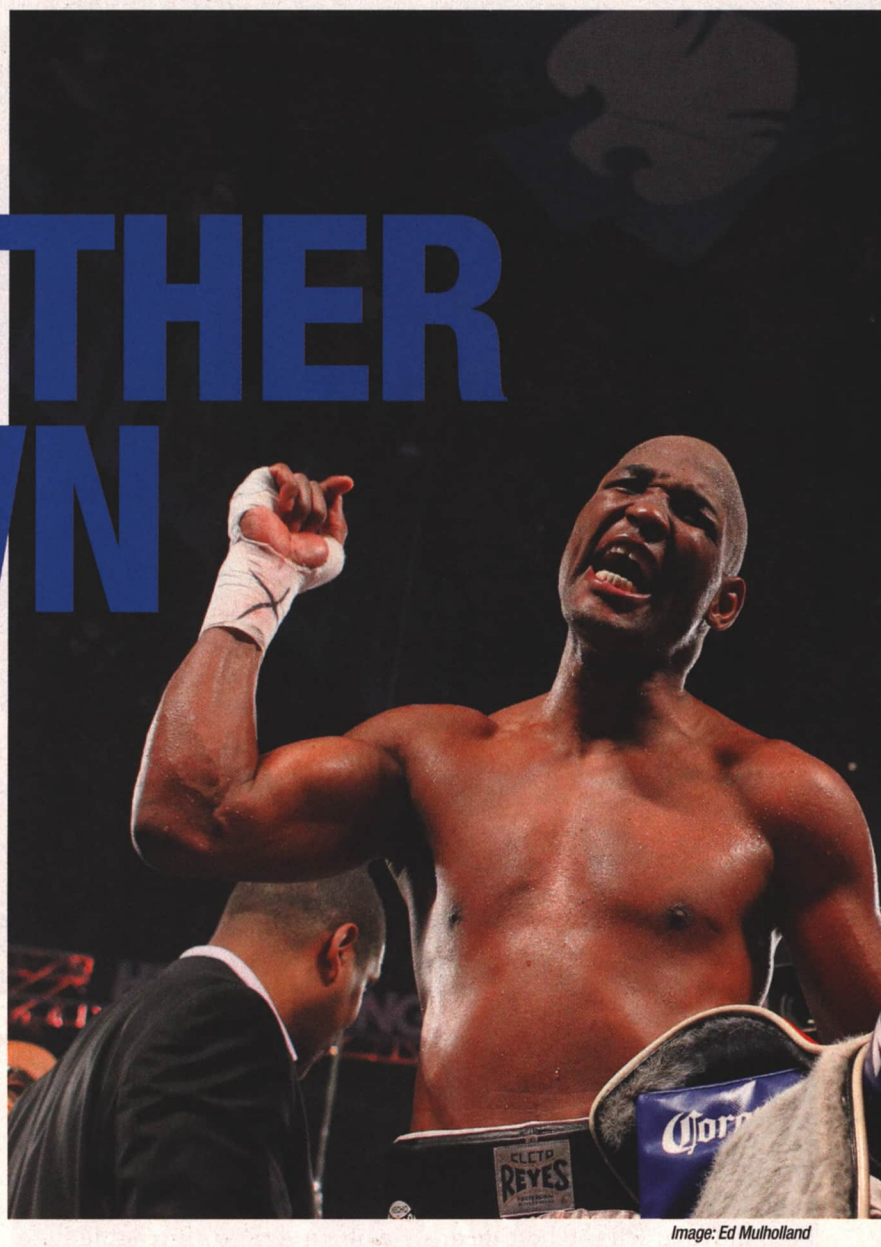

Image: Ed Mulholland

BERNARD HOPKINS PROVES AGAIN IN A CLEAR VICTORY OVER TAVORIS CLOUD THAT HE CAN NEVER BE COUNTED OUT

By: **Norm Frauenheim**

It's hard to know what to say about Bernard Hopkins anymore. He has exhausted the superlatives. The only thing he hasn't exhausted is time. It's still there for him on a personal clock that never strikes midnight. There's always a new dawn for Hopkins. Always another fight. Cocoon was a film, a sci-fi fantasy, about reversing age. Hopkins is real.

Tavoris Cloud, who is young enough to be Hopkins' son, found out how real. Hopkins, 48, executed a brilliantly orchestrated plan to win by a unanimous decision and take Cloud's IBF light heavyweight title on March 9 at Barclays Center in Brooklyn, N.Y.

The result served as a lesson: For all of its spilled blood and concussive knockouts, good boxers are thinkers.

"It was the subtle things that I was doing," Hopkins told RingTV.com. "The people that are watching the fight, that are doing the blow-by-blow, they actually don't know what I'm doing. But, now, they appreciate the craft of boxing."

It's no coincidence that Hopkins (53-6-2, 32 knockouts) is still fighting. He's out-thought younger fighters who figured they'd overwhelm him with energy and power. But it's not that simple. Never has been, and Hopkins understands that, perhaps by instinct or because of defiance. Maybe it's just the art of survival. Or maybe it's all of that and more. But if staying young

Image: Elsa-Getty

Bernard Hopkins (left) proved again against Tavoris Cloud that his sharp mind can overcome most physical challenges in the ring.

means not standing still, Hopkins' performance is a good example for all of those anti-aging experts who tell their patients to keep moving. It's the best medicine. It's not a bad tactic, either

"I'm fighting old school in a new world," Hopkins said after becoming the oldest fighter in history to win a major title, surpassing the mark he set in 2011 with a victory over Jean Pascal when he was 46. "I had to learn how to adapt."

Hopkins moved laterally, keeping the 31-year-old Cloud (24-1, 19 KOs) off-balance. At some point, Cloud must have thought the old man would slow down. Hopkins didn't, while also using a jab that prevented Cloud from effectively moving inside. In part, adaptation is forcing an opponent to deal with trouble heretofore unseen. For Cloud, that meant a cut. He had never been bloodied. In the sixth round, he was, above his left eye. Referee Earl Brown ruled it was caused by a head butt, but video shows it was a left followed by an elbow.

"He hit me with an elbow, but I'm not complaining," Cloud said after losing by scores of 116-112, 116-112 and 117-111.

Complaints wouldn't have mattered. Elbows, inadvertent or planned, sometimes land. Cloud saw his own blood and looked confused. He might not be the next time he fights. By then, however, Hopkins figures to be moving on to Nathan Cleverly or Beibut Shumenov or a mandatory against beltholder Karo Murat, a relatively unknown German. Even super-middleweight champion Andre Ward, an HBO analyst for Hopkins' last triumph, has been mentioned. Before scores for the predictable result were announced, Hopkins looked down at the broadcast table and asked Ward if he had learned anything.

"Write it down," Hopkins said.

"Watch the tape and use it if you want, because you're going to be here for a long time."

But notice that Hopkins did not call out Ward, who told reporters at Barclays that he'd consider the possibility. Hopkins is too smart for that, too. The argument is that Ward's ring IQ would nullify the one advantage Hopkins has. It's not clear how much longer Hopkins will fight. A day before beating Cloud, he said he won't be fighting until he's 50. But, he also said, don't be surprised. Remember, he also promised his mom he'd quit at 40.

No matter how long he continues, Hopkins has arrived at a stage when legacy trumps all. He's trying to measure himself against a couple of the game's all-time senior citizens, Archie Moore and George Foreman. Foreman won a heavyweight title when he was 46, establishing a record that stood until Hopkins beat Pascal in a rematch. Moore is the only man to have faced both Rocky Marciano and Muhammad Ali.

In pursuit of a spot on history's top shelf alongside both Foreman and Moore, Hopkins doesn't need a fight against a pound-for-pound contender who could make him look bad. Ward could. Instead, Hopkins figures to pick and choose in a careful search for opponents who further illuminate those timeless smarts.

That probably means a Cleverly or Shumenov instead of a Ward or even a third fight with Chad Dawson. Then again, that brings us back to everything that has been said about and to Hopkins throughout his 25-year career. There's one word that still motivates Hopkins more than any other:

Can't.

He'll show you he can. ■

Images: Naoki Fukuda

Above, Hopkins gave Cloud a boxing lesson to win a clear unanimous decision. Below, the winner wasn't the least bit surprised his hand was raised.

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PRIZEFIGHTER

THE EIGHT-MAN, ONE-DAY TOURNAMENT FORMAT, WHICH IS POPULAR IN THE U.K., CATERS TO AN EVER-CHANGING VIEWERSHIP

By: **Gareth A Davies**

Audley Harrison has found the success in *Prizefighter* he hasn't been able to find in more traditional boxing.
Image: Scott Heavey-Getty

Audley Harrison (right) had to get through former champion Martin Rogan to win the most recent *Prizefighter (29)* on Feb. 23.
Image: Lawrence Lustig

A few years back, veteran promoter Barry Hearn was in Las Vegas on business. Invited to sit ringside at an Ultimate Fighting Championship mixed martial arts show, he was struck by several things: the fans were in their seats early; fights were three rounds and the action fast paced, and six fights on the main card had mini-documentary teasers on large screens placed around the arena.

Prizefighter was born. At least in Hearn's mind.

Eight boxers, seven fights – quarter-finals, semi-finals and final – last man standing gets the *Prizefighter* booty. And all in two and a half hours.

It might not have been what the purist ordered, but the format has delivered casual boxing observers in droves and has been selling out small halls. When the heavyweights come to town, it has even sold out arenas.

That was five years ago, and *Prizefighter No. 30* is now in the works. Over that period, old fighters have been rejuvenated, young fighters have been given a leg up over the wall and new stars created.

"We came up with the concept a few years ago, and we were going to call it 'Last Man Standing,' but then it went on the back burner for a little while," said Hearn, 64, who is one of life's great innovators across several sports.

In boxing alone, he promoted Steve Collins, Chris Eubank, Nigel Benn, Naseem Hamed and Herbie Hide, having started the firecrackers with his first big boxing show in 1987, with Frank Bruno against Joe Bugner.

To Hearn's repertoire over four decades, add snooker, darts, fishing, poker and 10-pin bowling, all of which he has molded into a television-friendly formula.

"I do think the UFC influenced me," he said. "Seeing the movement of young kids – not away from boxing but not coming to watch boxing – I thought we needed something in the middle, something different. It's fast paced, and you get the result in one night."

Hearn was impressed by the super middleweight tournament staged by Showtime, which increased the ratings of several stars. "The Super Sixes [involving a group of the world's best 168-pounders] was a great idea, but it took two and a half years to

play out." He pauses. "This takes two and a half hours!"

Sky Sports, which broadcasts six *Prizefighter* events as part of its annual deal with Hearn's Matchroom Sport company – plus 14 fight nights per year – insists the response has always been overwhelmingly positive.

They have broadcast *Prizefighter* from the beginning, the first staging of it won by Irishman Martin Rogan in April 2008.

It has evolved into fans tweeting live into the Sky Sport studio, with the tweets appearing on screen, while betting company Betfair generates live updates on the odds throughout the broadcast. "Lively" is how it always comes across.

Executives at Sky Sports – the Sky subscriber audience was registered at 10.7 million in June 2012 – are clearly content with the format, which continues to be something of a phenomenon.

"*Prizefighter* broadens our boxing content on Sky Sports. It appeals to the trade audience and also attracts a different, more casual type of viewer, which is important for us in terms of making new fans for the sport," said Adam Smith, Executive Producer of Boxing at Sky Sports.

"Fans of all ages, men and women go to the shows. On *Prizefighter* nights we bring that Fight Night atmosphere to the small-hall show and that sense of occasion comes across on screen.

"From the fighters' point of view it gives them, and that's all types and levels, that golden opportunity of having their dream night."

It has also been a success story as an international seller. Fuel TV had it in the United States, and Hearn revealed to me that it has sold well in Scandinavia, with some countries having bought the next six *Prizefighter* events.

PRIZEFIGHTER FORMAT

- The first *Prizefighter* took place in 2008 in London. Heavyweight Martin Rogan was the winner. There have been 29 competitions in the series.
- Eight professional boxers in one weight division take part in each competition.
- A random draw is conducted to determine matchups four quarterfinal bouts. The winners proceed to two semifinal matches and the winners of the semifinals proceed to the final to determine an overall winner.
- Each contest is three three-minute rounds.
- Normal judging applies.
- All contests take place on the same evening.
- Notable winners: Audley Harrison (twice), Martin Rogan, Gavin Rees, Martin Murray.

In the most recent *Prizefighter*, at heavyweight, Audley Harrison resurrected his career (yet) again in winning the event at York Hall.

Packed to the rafters, Harrison arrived in phenomenal shape, at 237 pounds, 16½ lighter than when he fought David Haye for the WBA heavyweight title on that disastrous night in Manchester in November 2010, when he froze like a statue.

Haye, sitting ringside – with Olympic Games gold medalist Anthony Joshua just two seats away from the Hayemaker – was mightily impressed with his former ring victim.

"Audley is back. I haven't seen him look that good since the 2000 Sydney Olympics," said Haye. "That was probably his best performance as a pro. When you think he was a 6-1 underdog going into the tournament, you have to say he is back on the U.K. domestic scene. Audley Harrison would be a good test for someone like Tyson Fury."

With knockout bonuses and a revenge victory over Rogan in the semifinal, A-Force went home with $54,300 (about £36,000) for two KOs and nine minutes of dominance. He always did love the amateur format. But more than that, it meant he was back in everyone's minds. Previously etched in the memory was that KO in under a minute at the hands of David Price, Harrison crumpling like a blanket on the canvas of a Liverpool ring.

Look back, and it's worth recalling that Harrison's first victory in *Prizefighter* led to him securing the European title and then that WBA title challenge against Haye. A facile one, on final analysis, but it shows where being in the spotlight – even in *Prizefighter* – can lead to.

While it might not delight the purist, *Prizefighter* delivers in entertainment. Small hall venues are sold out, the atmosphere is tribal and partisan, and the winner emerges on the night.

It has fallen on Eddie Hearn, the 33-year-old son of the Matchroom Sport owner, to move the boxing side of the business on. He has taken over *Prizefighter* since acquiring his Boxing Board license two years ago.

He believes that the "pockets of fans coming from all over the

Above, Gavin Rees' victory over Colin Lynes (left) in the final of *Prizefighter 9* helped build his reputation. Below, Rees earned a title shot against Adrian Broner by stopping Derry Mathews in a standard bout.
Image: Lawrence Lustig

country for each fighter" generates a unique atmosphere. With the smaller weights, it is as if eight tribes have come to watch a pugilistic war.

Reporters are dispatched into the crowd to bring a flavor from the supporters, who come in coachloads from Manchester, Birmingham, Liverpool, Wales and Ireland.

At York Hall, in London's East End, with its tight dimensions and balcony overlooking the ring, a bear pit is created with an electric ambience. It was here where Harrison won last time out.

"Apart from recognized boxers, it gives young, unbeaten fighters an opportunity to make a name for themselves. It only gets criticism from the purist," said Hearn Jr. of

Image: Lawrence Lustig

Eddie Hearn (left, with Darren Barker) took over *Prizefighter* from his father after acquiring his Boxing Board license two years ago.

an age to be in touch with life on the iPhone, Twitter, iPad and Android devices.

"Look. No one's pretending that it's real boxing. I know it's not a 12-round championship fight between the very best in the world. The heavyweight *Prizefighter* we held on Feb. 23 sold out quickly."

"But you'd expect that with Audley Harrison, the first ever Prizefighter winner Martin Rogan and an international flavor." It included Timo Hoffman, and two Americans, Travis Walker and Derric Rossy.

There were knockouts galore. Yet some of the brilliant *Prizefighter* events, at the lighter weights, have sold slowly. Perhaps that is indicative of boxing the world over.

Hearn agrees. "That's boxing. When Kell Brook fought Matthew Hatton, we had 10,000 in there. We sold 3,000 tickets on the first day. When Brook fought Carson Jones, it was 500 on day one."

"It's like that with Prizefighter. It varies. When Glenn Foot beat Dale Evans in 'Welterweights III' in January this year, he walked away with 34 grand with a KO bonus. The Welsh kid he beat in the final, Dale Evans, got 16 grand. Dale is 21, has kids and works a 70-hour week."

"He's boxed in shows before, for 1,500 pounds in a four-rounder, so it's life- changing money for him. But more importantly, everyone now looks at Dale Evans and see's a good young kid, and wants to watch him again."

The double-whammy is that this is marketing and entertainment for the TV watcher. The theory here is that it is the evolution of the multi-tasking viewer.

"When people are sitting at home now they're not engrossed in their television as the only source of entertainment in front of them. They are tweeting, they are buying something from the internet. Concentration and attentions levels are diminishing day by day," said Hearn.

"Take cricket, the most traditional of games. It has shortened its format."

The longest form of international cricket is five days. There are also one-day matches. But recent success has been found in three-hour matches which are selling out stadiums. Like boxers having a tear-up, batsman have to hit the ball out of the ground. Like society, we are becoming faster and more accessible.

"We're shortening some snooker formats because people don't want to sit in front of the telly all day. We've taken it from the best of 19

Middleweight Eamon O'Kane celebrates winning the all-Irish *Prizefighter 24* last year in Belfast, Northern Ireland.
Image: Scott Heavey-Getty

frames to the best of 11 frames in some tournaments."

"We now do a tournament in snooker called the 'World Snooker Shoot-Out,' which is one frame with a shot clock. It's just made for TV and brings the casual fan into sport. The purist absolutely hates it. Just as he does in boxing."

"*Prizefighter* is basically a knock-out fest, but fans have enjoyed the bigger names, like Derry Matthews or Anthony Crolla, trying to adapt to the three-round format and go-ing head to head."

Like his father, Hearn Jr. cites the Super Sixes. "For a purist it was amazing because the best got to fight the best in championship fight after championship fight. But casu-al fans were asking 'What's going on? Who's still in it? Who's fighting who? How does this work?' With *Prizefighter*, the winner stays on – and boom – you get your fights and winner on the night."

The eight men involved also get the VIP treatment from Sky Sports. They visit the Sky studios for a promo day, are filmed with the tro-phy and are interviewed in mini-documentary pieces.

"At the top level some sports-men can be ungrateful bastards but when you see this, it's heart-warming. Fighters are probably the easiest people to fall in love with when they're at this stage in their career because they are working their nuts off, and they don't get anything," Eddie Hearn said after heart-warming

It was the younger Hearn who brought Harrison into the fold in 2009, having met him at the Rio in Las Vegas, where they were among seven thousand people playing in the World Series of Poker.

"I was sitting in a casino and play-ing with Audley. I'd never met him before. I had the same perception as most people: loads of talent but he'd wasted it all, great talker but s--t fighter, you know what I mean. ..."

Audley pleaded with Hearn to give him a comeback under the Matchroom Sport banner. "He was asking for a four- or six-rounder. I couldn't think of anything worse, but I thought if he was in Prize-fighter, there would be interest."

"I suggested a route to the Eu-ropean title, even a world title. I persuaded him it was his format." Harrison said 'yes', the rest is his-tory. He won the tournament.

"Once we had the right heavyweights on board, I thought of putting it on in an arena, at the Excel [in London's Docklands, which hosted the Olympic boxing tournament last year]. Normally we would just do it at the York Hall, but putting it on at the Excel, with Audley, and Danny Williams – who was British heavyweight champion – we sold 6,000 tickets, which was a sell-out."

"And it just took off. That night we did the biggest *Prizefighter* audience ever by double, with over half a million on Sky. Heavyweights always rate higher because everyone wants to see the big men knock each other out. That night launched Audley again."

The same was true for Gavin Rees. Rees had been in the wilderness for a time until he won *Prizefighter* at London Olympia in 2009. From there, he went on to win the British title, then the European title, at lightweight, 18 months later.

He'd already been a world champion at junior welterweight, but Hearn reckons Rees was stagnating before his *Prizefighter* final win against Ted Bami.

"We signed Gavin after *Prizefighter*. That run led him to fighting Adrien Broner. People were saying to me, 'Why are you putting him in with Broner?' but this was life-changing money. He's a tough son of a bitch. And why should he be fighting for 30 grand [$45,000] for a European title no-one wants to watch? So I sent him out there and put him on HBO."

"I believe in maximizing the opportunities for my fighters."

Hearn the younger now mentions UFC. "I went to Brock Lesnar against Shane Carwin. I'd never been to a UFC fight. I saw what we do with the darts, I saw the bright lights, the shouting, the younger audience."

"That was the weekend we signed Haye against Harrison, out there in Vegas with Adam Booth. I went there on the Saturday night, and I remember going and thinking 'f-----g hell, this is unbelievable.' The night after I went to a boxing show and it was 45-year-old blokes with a beer can." Hearn is convinced that changing with the times is necessary.

Tom Shaw-Getty

Barry Hearn got the idea for *Prizefighter* after watching an Ultimate Fighting Championship competition in Las Vegas.

"I think there has to be a distinction between *Prizefighter* and the big arena shows. We deliver both for Sky Sports. Those big shows are all about the production values, the big rigs, the screens, the music, the lights, the walk on."

Then there is *Prizefighter*. "The key is that it has to be aspirational for a viewer," Hearn said, "maybe the viewer who is not a normal boxing fan. But they love a good fight."

When they turn on the television I want them to go, 'Wow, I want to be a part of that.' One, I want them to watch it, and two, I want them to want to be there. That's what we do with the darts events."

"People see it on Sky and they say, 'Look at the atmosphere, look at the lights, look at the walk on girls.' They go there in their thousands and are blown away by the atmosphere," Hearn said. Not bad when you consider it's a pub game with blokes throwing darts at a board on a stage.

"We are producing live television events, so you have to keep the punters there happy and that means fast paced action, interviews, music, things going on. Even our MC John McDonald is in the ring at *Prizefighter* events when we

Image: Scott Heavey-Getty

Rogan (left) scored an emphatic third-round knockout of Albert Sosnowski in the first round of *Prizefighter 29* but lost a decision to Harrison in the semifinals. Rogan became a fan favorite after winning *Prizefighter 1* in 2008.

come back from advert breaks, urging the crowd to make noise, to celebrate each fighter coming in as they walk to the ring."

"I'll go back to the UFC. People watch UFC and they go 'man, look at this show - this is a proper show - I want to go to the next one."

"Now when you turn on the TV, and this is why I think Sky's decision was so crucial alongside our thinking, there's atmosphere. What had happened was that with some of the broadcasts in the past, say, from a leisure centre, there'd be 600 people in there and you can see the basketball markings on the floor."

"It felt like there was no-one there, and empty seats everywhere. When people see that on TV, they switch over. They think it looks poxy, or they don't see themselves as wanting to go to it. It's not rocket science."

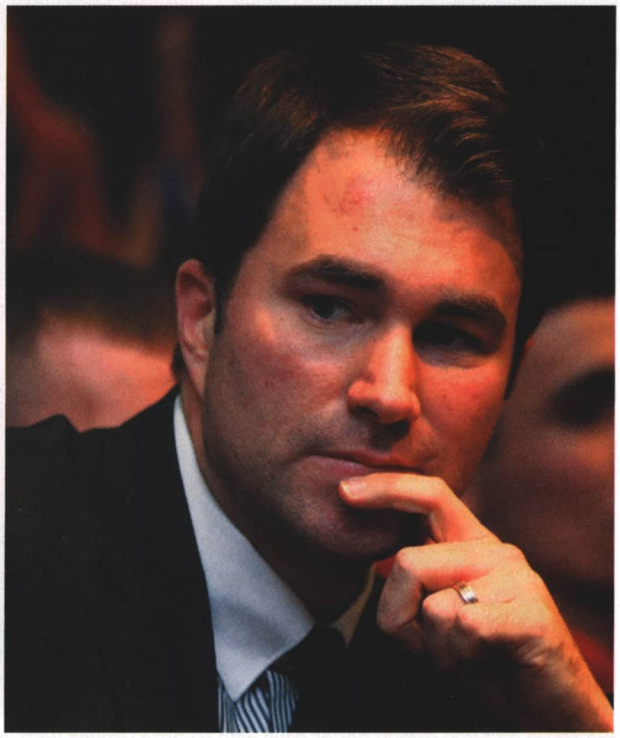
Matchroom Sport is the only promoter in the U.K. with a Sky Sports deal at present, which gives the Hearns immense power. But they aren't resting on their laurels. Quite the opposite.

"At the top level some sportsmen can be ungrateful bastards but when you see this, it's heart-warming. Fighters are probably the easiest people to fall in love with when they're at this stage in their career because they are working their nuts off, and they don't get anything." — *Eddie Hearn*

Eddie Hearn is actually planning an expansion for *Prizefighter*. "Creating something international has already been discussed. It has been shown live in America on a lifestyle channel, six events went on Fuel TV in the U.S.A., and I'm talking to Golden Boy Promotions about *Prizefighter* as well."

"We've thought about USA vs. England, we've looked at it and talked about it, England vs. Germany in the heavyweights. There's all kinds of different stuff that you can do but we're close to breaking the American market now. I think the Americans would love prize fighter. I'd even like four Hispanics, and four Americans, in Las Vegas, or Los Angeles. ... I think taking it to America is inevitable at some point." You heard it here. Be prepared.

Gareth A Davies *is Boxing Correspondent for the* London Daily Telegraph.



Images: Getty

Frank Warren (left) and Eddie Hearn have proved that not only American promoters have a difficult time coexisting.

OLD MASTER VS. YOUNG PRETENDER

THE DEFECTION OF RICKY BURNS FROM FRANK WARREN TO EDDIE HEARN BRINGS A BATTLE OF THE PROMOTERS TO A BOIL

By: **Gareth A Davies,**
***The Telegraph*, London**

The Grosvenor House Hotel, Park Lane, London: Monday, March 11, 13:00 hours. Promotional lines were drawn up for a battle of Britain.

Quiet man Ricky Burns, the World Boxing Organization lightweight champion, was unveiled as a Matchroom Sport signee under emerging promoter Eddie Hearn. Just after 16:00 hours, the cannons went off. Rival promoter Frank Warren announced that he would sue the 29-year-old titleholder, his former client, for "substantial damages."

Park Lane boasts some of the most expensive real estate in London. The black-tie season in autumn/winter sees the penguin suits and expensive frocks spilling out of the swankiest hotels onto an 8-lane carriageway.

Mike Tyson stayed here 13 years ago on his first sojourn to the U.K., put up by Warren when the once-great warrior fought Julius Francis in Manchester. Warren timed Tyson just right, the infamous former heavyweight champion generating column inches on the front, middle and back of every newspaper and magazine out there.

Warren, no stranger to fighting his own corner and a survivor par excellence – he was once shot by an assailant – has never been far from the big story. He has created more millionaire boxers than any other promoter in Europe.

He's now battling another heavyweight challenger.

Hearn, 33 years old and two years

U.K. TOP 10

Gareth A Davies' monthly pound-for-pound list for British boxers.

1. **CARL FROCH**
2. **AMIR KHAN**
3. **DAVID HAYE**
4. **RICKY BURNS**
5. **KELL BROOK**
6. **NATHAN CLEVERLY**
7. **CARL FRAMPTON**
8. **TYSON FURY**
9. **SCOTT QUIGG**
10. **GEORGE GROVES**

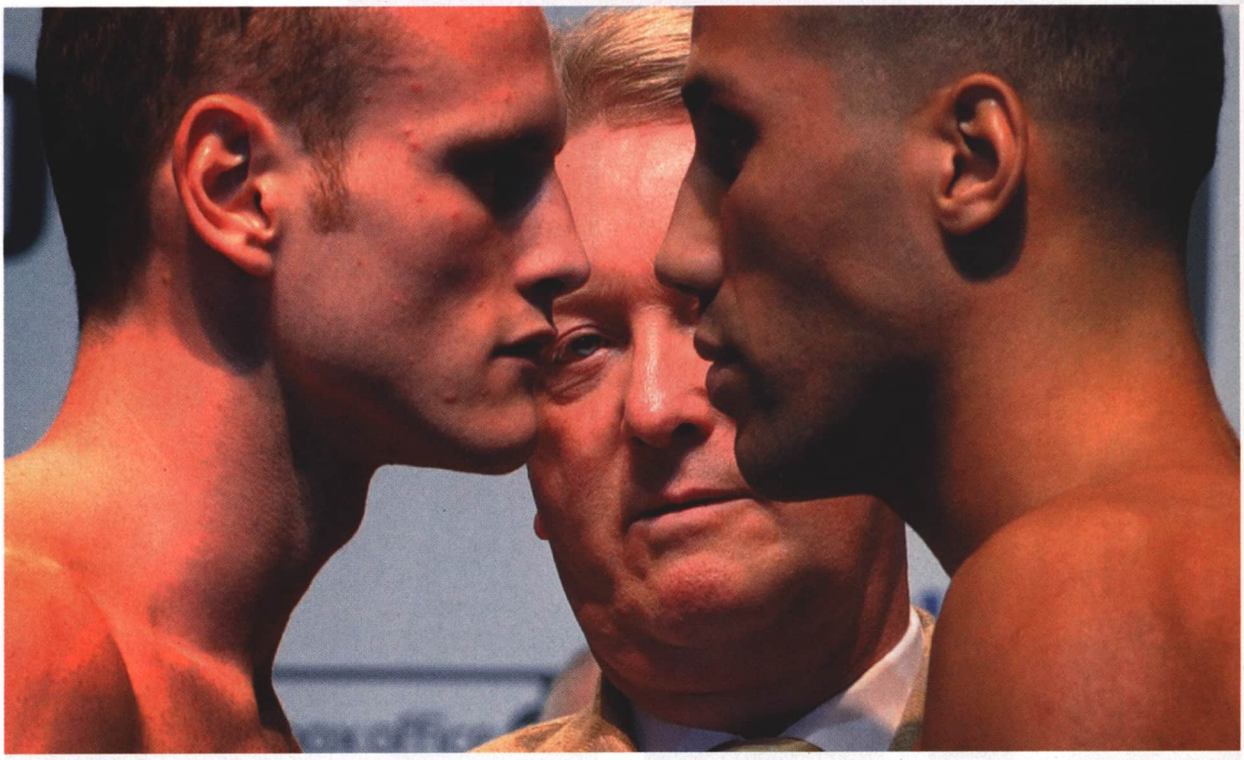


Image: Ben Stansall-AFP-Getty

Warren is pictured during better days with George Groves (left), another fighter who defected to rival promoter Eddie Hearn.

into his tenure with a promoter's license, alongside being managing director of Matchroom Sport, is the young pretender. He was stone-faced in insisting Burns' first contest would be under his banner on May 11 in Glasgow, Scotland.

Yet from 30 miles north of London, Warren countered that Burns was still contractually bound to face IBF lightweight champion Miguel Vazquez on April 20 at Wembley Arena in London.

The statement from Warren's office read: "Since being promoted and managed by Frank Warren, Ricky Burns has earned just approaching £750,000 [about $1.12 million] and has had seven world title fights in just over two years. Ricky Burns is under binding promotional and management contracts.

"Following the announcement by Eddie Hearn that Ricky Burns has signed with him, W. Promotions Limited and Frank Warren are suing Burns for substantial damages."

It was a day of claims and counter-claims. Much of it was not published.

It was announced that WBO light heavyweight champion Nathan Cleverly, now the lynchpin in Warren's stable, would still face Robin Krasniqi on the April 20 show. It will be televised on BoxNation, the subscription boxing channel in which Warren's family holds a controlling stake.

Cleverly came out in support of Warren, insisting he would "stay loyal" but also stating that he would like a unification contest with Bernard Hopkins this year. Warren, he believes, is the promoter to get him that fight.

Even octogenarian promoter Bob Arum had a view. He told me later that day that anyone writing off Frank Warren, 61, would do so "at their peril."

In a sense, history was repeating itself. Hearn's father, Barry, had been a rival promoter to Warren in the past. Warren had seen him off.

Burns, who became a two-weight world champion under Warren's control, had followed super middleweight George Groves in joining Hearn's growing stable of fighters. That group includes world super middleweight champion Carl Froch and light heavyweight prospect Tony Bellew.

Hearn outlined that he had been provided with a letter from Burns as "confirmation that he has terminated his agreement" and was adamant that his company had committed no wrongdoing. It will be left to the lawyers to battle that one out.

"One thing we would never do is discuss contractual issues or make an offer to a fighter who is under contract," Hearn said.

This was the young pretender against the old master.

Hearn has powerful backers in Sky Sport – the equivalent of, say, HBO in the United States – with

Image: Lars Baron-Bongarts-Getty

Martin Murray (here fighting Felix Sturm) is a success story regardless of how he fares against Sergio Martinez in Buenos Aires.

whom he holds the sole contract for 20 fight nights a year.

Yet Warren has been a formidable promotional force for over three decades in European and world boxing, and shows no signs of giving up his throne.

"Don't worry about my obit. I'll write that myself," warned Warren in an interview with a U.K. Sunday newspaper in early March.

A brief history lesson here: It was Warren who shifted the paradigm in British boxing, ousting Micky Duff as the main promotional force over 30 years ago.

Warren, ambitious and groundbreaking, drove coach and horses through the British Boxing Board of Control set-up in the early 1980s, when fights took place on a Tuesday night and were shown on a Wednesday or even the following Saturday on the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), which had an exclusive contract with Duff.

That was cemented, or so they believed, through Boxing Board of Control regulations. The belief was that if fights were shown live on TV, no one would attend them. Warren proved them wrong.

In a direct challenge, Warren signed a deal with ITV, the rival network broadcaster, and showed fights live on the night.

Warren's shrewd move was to bring back Joe Bugner in October 1982. He put him in a ring against Winston Allen. Bugner KO'd Allen in the third round in front of a huge audience on television and plenty watching live in Bloomsbury, in Central London.

Duff was forced out by the changes and eventually gave up the fight. Warren was the new man on the throne.

"I've always been innovative. We have launched a boxing channel and we are moving fast, and doing really well," Warren said.

We will watch this battle with interest.

• • • • • • • • • • • • • • •

Regardless of the outcome of Martin Murray's foray into deepest South America against the marvel that is Sergio Martinez, the Englishman, hewn of northern grit, is a story for boxing itself to rejoice over.

Murray's honesty in describing his early years had me feeling a profound sense of admiration as he cooked supper in the kitchen of his semi-detached home in a quiet cul-de-sac in Warrington, several miles from Manchester. His son popped in for a hug, his wife Gemma was all smiles.

He even showed me his meticulously prepared kitbag, everything pressed, folded and in its place. Part and parcel of boxing having given him the regimen

and discipline which transformed him from a life once spiraling into a 6-foot-by-10-foot cell.

Murray has the kind of look that would ward you off wanting to engage him physically. Yet there is a gentility about him that is endearing. I had been told by Ricky Hatton, his promoter, that Murray was "a very fascinating, very nice man, with an intriguing past." We sat down. It was not until a few hours later that I left his home.

Murray, indeed, ended up on the wrong side of the law three times and was detained at what we call in the U.K. "Her Majesty's Pleasure," yet nothing in his early life or background ever suggested he would end up on the wrong side of the tracks.

He attended Cowley Grammar School in St. Helens, an outstanding school in a neighborhood renowned for creating tough men and good rugby players.

Then he went off the tracks. "I was brought up in a loving family. There wasn't a reason – I just went off the rails. I kind of lost everyone, and I was in my own little world. I did think to myself that if I kept going on like that I wasn't going to live very long.

"I've lost plenty of friends who've died through doing all kinds of stuff, at a young age, too. I've had a journey, but it seems like a lifetime ago now."

He got into a rut. He was drinking too much. Always getting into trouble. And mud sticks. "I got 200 hours community service and a driving ban for one offense. I took someone's car, gave it back to them, but it was damaged and we got into a bother over it ... it's a long story.

"Then I breached my community service because I was training, and then I was really starting to turn my life around and that's when my manager went in to court and he explained I was trying to turn my life around.

All in all, after a few stints inside, Murray knew life had to change. He was still drinking and getting into trouble. "They gave me a two-year conditional discharge at the beginning of 2007. This was before I turned professional."

Up to then, he had done every job imaginable. "Frozen meat packing, packing chicken, order picking, going round on lollop trucks in factories for companies and shops, I've worked with travelers on the roads in Newcastle. I've done PR abroad, I've worked on building sites ... there are loads of jobs I've forgotten.

"Just as I was trying to turn my life around everything just fell in to place. I met Gemma and everything just went right. She's one of the best things that ever happened to me, and obviously my kids."

Murray is not only a prizefighter, he's also a qualified youth worker. His wife continues the caring theme in the household in her occupation as a social worker. Murray knows already what he will do when the gloves are hung up. He'll be working with young people, persuading them to find a positive direction in life.

"Now I'm a qualified youth worker, so I do that in my spare time when I can. I recognize a lot of the stuff, and I see a lot of myself in them – it's the wildness of youth.

"That's all it is – they need guidance. Me and one of my best mates, who has come from a similar background, decided that's what we want to do. We went to college, passed the qualification and we get the naughty kids (to) the gym, boxing.

"It's a good way for them to get rid of the aggression, and they enjoy it. We just try and guide them, and that's all they need. Some of them come from tough backgrounds, and it's not easy for them."

"The thing is with me, I had a great upbringing with my mum and my dad, who are still together now, and my brothers and sister, and it was hard when we were kids but they worked for it. I got brought up in a loving relationship, so there's no excuse for me."

"I won't say I got involved in the wrong crowd because I'm still mates with them now, but it was the wrong kind of thing I was doing. Going out, drinking. And it just went all from there."

But back to the present. What Murray has ahead of him, to his advantage, is that he is one of a quad of outstanding middleweights in the U.K. who clearly need to be matched up together: Murray, Matthew Macklin, Darren Barker and Andy Lee have all fought at world level, yet we have still to discover, through athletic endeavor, who would emerge as the strongest.

I have it on good authority from both promoters and broadcaster Sky Sports in the U.K. that work is underway to make it happen.

The four may have to accept that it may not be the mega-paydays they might have expected at one point, but it would be a travesty for British fans not to see, potentially, six fights.

My take, for the record? Macklin's the most experienced, Barker's the best pure boxer, Murray's the strongest, while Lee's the dark horse. Pick a winner out of the four? Forget it ... too close to call. Cheers.

Gareth A Davies *is Boxing Correspondent for* The Daily Telegraph, *London.*

Tony Thompson put the brakes on heavyweight prospect David Price's considerable momentum.
Image: Alex Livesay-Getty

TONY THOMPSON TKO 2
DAVID PRICE

DATE: FEB. 23, 2013
SITE: ECHO ARENA, LIVERPOOL, ENGLAND
WEIGHTS: THOMPSON 262; PRICE 247
RING RATING (GOING INTO FIGHT): THOMPSON UNRATED; PRICE UNRATED
NETWORK: WEALTHTV

Liverpool's chances at being remembered for something other than the Beatles took a beating. For one stunning night, David Price looked a lot like the Nowhere Man in a loss to 41-year-old Tony Thompson, whose one-punch stoppage knocked a few holes into the heavyweight aspirations of Liverpool's 2008 Olympic bronze medalist.

Price, a modern link to the port city's 150-year-old boxing tradition, was seen as the next big thing in a division that also has seen better days. Price is big, all right. Think NBA big. He's 6-foot-8. Thompson was seen as the right match for a young fighter on the way up. Once again, however, there's no slam dunk among the heavyweights. There aren't any real contenders, either, in a weight class that has been dominated by Wladimir and Vitali Klitschko for longer than there's been global warming. Call it the Klitschko Bloc.

Thompson was supposed to be a way station on the path to Dereck Chisora and Tyson Fury. After them you could crank up the speculation about Wladimir and Vitali. But then one punch landed, a right hook, dropping the 29-year-old Price (15-1, 13 knockouts), who seemed to come apart in sections as he fell to the canvas with less than a minute left in the second round.

"That's heavyweight boxing," Price told reporters after the upset delivered by Thompson, whose record (37-3, 25 KOs) includes two losses to Wladimir. "You get caught. It's not the end of the world. I've been knocking people out like that so far. But I'm not invincible. Anyone can get caught or hurt. This could be a positive."

It could. Any quick stoppage raises questions about whether the chin is too fragile to withstand heavyweight power. In Price's case, however, you can table that for now. Thompson's punch seemed to land behind Price's left ear, which can do nasty things to one's equilibrium.

"It was a funny shot," said Price, whose manager Frank Maloney collapsed after the news conference reportedly because of a blood-pressure drop caused by not eating. "It perforated my eardrum. I threw an uppercut, and he caught me around the back of the ear. My legs went from underneath me. That shot didn't look like much, but it just scrambled me."

Hopes for Chisora or Fury have been pushed back until – or if – Price can reaffirm his potential and restore his confidence.

"One punch doesn't change who I am," Price said.

But it has changed his plans, at least for a while.

– Norm Frauenheim

Ruslan Provodnikov (right) and Timothy Bradley gave fans a show they'll never forget in March.
Image: Kevork Djansezian-Getty

TIMOTHY BRADLEY UD 12
RUSLAN PROVODNIKOV

DATE: MARCH 16, 2013
SITE: HOME DEPOT CENTER, CARSON, CALIF.
DIVISION: WELTERWEIGHT
WEIGHTS: BRADLEY 146.6; PROVODNIKOV 146.6
RING RATING (GOING INTO FIGHT): BRADLEY NO. 7; PROVODNIKOV UNRATED
NETWORK: HBO

There's no reliable road map on how to go from death threats to cheers. But Timothy Bradley completed the fickle journey in an astonishing turnaround. It took him an unforgettable 12 rounds that illuminated true grit in a fighter who had been turned into a villain for a robbery he didn't commit.

Bradley, vilified by a kangaroo court of public opinion because of judging in June that gave him a split decision over Manny Pacquiao, fought like an angry man determined to tell the world it was wrong to condemn him.

It wasn't easy. Ruslan Provodnikov made sure of that. But a soft touch, the dreaded tune-up, wouldn't have allowed Bradley to make his point in such a dramatic fashion. No great argument is won without adversity. And there was plenty of that in an outdoor ring on a chilly night when sweat evaporated off Bradley's bald head like vents of steam.

"I gave it everything I had," Bradley (30-0, 12 KOs) told reporters after he was awarded a unanimous 114-113, 114-113 and 115-112 victory. "Every ounce I had, I gave."

If he hadn't, there probably would been an I-told-you-so chorus from some boxing fans, whose disdain for Bradley in the wake of the Pacquaio controversy was expressed by anonymous threats to him and his family.

Provodnikov (22-2, 15 KOs) got Bradley into trouble immediately. In the first round, the Russian wobbled Bradley, who tumbled onto the canvas in what was ruled a slip by referee Pat Russell. It's fair to argue that it was a knockdown. But it's indisputable that Bradley somehow survived that challenge and an assault in the second that left him with only the ropes between him and a long fall into the ringside seats.

In the third, Bradley began to recover. In the fourth and fifth, he began to strike back with effective caution. In the sixth, the fight was on in an exchange that left him spitting blood. In the seventh, Bradley backpedaled as Provodnikov moved forward and straight into punches that left him with a bloodied left eye. The fight was beginning to go Bradley's way.

Bradley had to endure one more last-ditch assault that forced him to take a knee with seconds to go in the 12th but he got up and remained standing at the final bell, ensuring that his first fight since Pacquaio was a personal triumph that overturned the public's mistaken verdict.

– Norm Frauenheim

Image: Naoki Fukuda

Ishe Smith (right) upset fellow veteran Cornelius Bundrage in a close fight to win the IBF junior middleweight title.

LAMONT PETERSON TKO 8 KENDALL HOLT
FEB. 22, WASHINGTON, D.C. (ESPN2/ESPN DEPORTES)

If Peterson seemed overzealous when he brought out the Bolo Punch, it's easy to see why.

After all, the IBF junior welterweight titleholder had been out of commission for more than 14 months, the aftermath of a positive test for synthetic testosterone that thwarted his summer rematch with Amir Khan.

For three-and-a-half rounds, it was evident Peterson had ring rust. Holt (28-6, 16 KOs) brought the fight to the hometown boxer and was in control of the bout when he walked into a looping overland left that dropped him to all fours.

Peterson (31-1-1, 16 KOs) applied non-stop pressure and dropped Holt again in the sixth. He finished matters two rounds later when referee Tony Weeks stepped in to save Holt from a barrage of blows along the ropes at 1:42.

Peterson has no tune-ups in his immediate future: He has agreed to face slugger Lucas Matthysse on May 18.

ISHE SMITH SD 12 NO. 9 CORNELIUS BUNDRAGE
FEB. 23, DETROIT (SHOWTIME)

No one could blame Ishe Smith for his emotional post-fight display. At age 34, after weathering depression and a suicide attempt, Smith won his first title by a close but clear split-decision win over Cornelius Bundrage.

One judge scored it 114-113 for Bundrage but was overruled by tallies of 116-111 and 116-111 for the new IBF junior middleweight beltholder.

The fight was a mostly dreary affair but picked up down the stretch. Smith (25-5, 11 KOs) connected with some clean combinations that buzzed the 39-year-old hometown fighter in the final rounds. Bundrage (32-5, 19 KOs) seemed to be a step too slow to cope with Smith, though he had his moments early on when he was able to bully his foe to the ropes.

Both fighters are former participants on The Contender but only one can now call himself champion.

Smith's first defense could come against mandatory challenger Carlos Molina.

MALIK SCOTT D 12 VYACHESLAV GLAZKOV
FEB. 23, HUNTINGTON, N.Y. (NBC SPORTS NET)

Scott carries the nickname "80-72," a joke on his lack of power and propensity to fight eight-rounders.

At 32, he has yet to reach the 12-round distance and has gone 10 rounds just three times, but Scott finally secured television exposure by headlining an NBC Sports Net Fight Night main event. He celebrated in the ring following a dominating 10-round

Knockout artist Keith Thurman (right) used his boxing skills to dominate tough Jan Zaveck, Thurman's biggest test to date.
Image: Naoki Fukuda

performance over Vyacheslav Glazkov (14-0-1, 10 KOs), perhaps thinking he'd finally shed the eight-round fighter label. But then the judges intervened and crashed the party with their verdict.

Scott (35-0-1, 12 KOs) cleanly out-boxed, out-classed and out-smarted the 2008 super heavyweight bronze medalist from Ukraine but had to settle for a draw by scores of 95-95, 98-92 in his favor and 96-94 for Glazkov. Scott displayed an excellent jab and looked the part of a legitimate heavyweight contender. But on this night, he was no match for the judges.

EVGENY GRADOVICH SD 12 NO. 4 BILLY DIB
MARCH 1, MASHANTUCKET, CONN.
(ESPN 2/ESPN DEPORTES)

Billy Dib has been criticized for his unentertaining style since his first appearance on American TV in 2008. In that bout, he simultaneously bored the public and suffered the first loss of his professional career against Steven Luevano on HBO.

In his first fight outside of his native Australia since that night, Dib (35-2, 21 KOs) engaged in an exciting bout but relinquished his IBF featherweight belt to late-replacement Evgeny Gradovich.

Dib, a stick-and-move specialist, had success when the fight was in the center of the ring, but Gradovich, nicknamed "The Mexican Russian" for his pressure style, succeeded in turning the fight into a brawl. Gradovich (16-0, 8 KOs) landed some big shots and was able to hurt Dib several times while also inflicting cuts over Dib's eyes.

One judge saw it for Dib 114-112 while the other two had tallies of 114-112 and 114-112 for the Robert Garcia-trained Gradovich.

GARY RUSSELL JR. UD 10 VYACHESLAV GUSEV
MARCH 2, LAS VEGAS (SHOWTIME)

Gary Russell Jr. is a dazzling talent, a fact no one can deny. But his level of opposition has been downright maddening.

Injuries have plagued him, going back to his Olympic days when he had to withdraw from the 2008 games after fainting prior to his scheduled time on the scale.

Boxing fans and observers alike were hoping 2013 would be the fast-handed featherweight's year, but that seems unlikely after yet another injury. Russell (22-0, 13 KOs) dominated Vyacheslav Gusev as he was expected to, winning a shutout decision by the unanimous score of 100-89, but suffered a hairline fracture in his left hand and was expected to be sidelined six to eight weeks.

Russell dropped Gusev (20-3, 5 KOs) in the third round, but the injury cost him a chance to finish the show.

NO. 2 DONNIE NIETES MD 12 MOISES FUENTES
MARCH 2, CEBU, PHILIPPINES

Filipino titleholder Donnie Nietes retained his WBO junior flyweight title in a hotly disputed and entertaining draw with Mexican Moises Fuentes. One judge saw it for the hometown fighter 115-113 but he was overruled by tallies of 114-114 and 114-114.

Nietes (31-1-4, 17 KOs) buckled Fuentes with a right hand in the fifth. Fuentes had problems breathing af-

Jessie Vargas (left) handed Wale Omotoso his first loss but had to work extremely hard to do it.
Image: Naoki Fukuda

ter the round, apparently the result of a broken nose. The next round, he returned the favor by cutting Nietes over both eyes (head butt and a punch). Fuentes (16-1-1, 8 KOs) was the more active fighter, but Nietes landed the harder shots. The fight picked up down the stretch as both fighters knew the contest was up for grabs.

Fuentes was THE RING's No. 1-rated strawweight but moved up to 108 pounds for the title shot.

KEITH THURMAN UD 12 JAN ZAVECK
MARCH 9, BROOKLYN, N.Y.

Keith Thurman (20-0, 18 KOs) can't always live up to the expectations of those who have followed his career. The powerful Floridian had stopped 18 of his first 19 opponents, which many believed would be Jan Zaveck's fate on the Hopkins-Cloud card.

Instead, Thurman proved to be human after all but also revealed his ability to dominate a world-class opponent with his boxing ability en route to a shutout decision, clear evidence that he's no mere puncher. Zaveck (32-3, 18 KOs) has an exceptional chin and indomitable spirit, which kept the pressure on Thurman from beginning to end. The young fighter was as impressive in handling that challenge – the biggest of his career -- as he has been knocking people out even if his performance wasn't particularly breathtaking.

Thurman cracked THE RING Ratings for the first time with the victory, landing at No. 10 among welterweights.

JESSIE VARGAS UD 10 WALE OMOTOSO
MARCH 16, CARSON, CALIF. (HBO)

Jessie Vargas is closer to getting into the welterweight division's title mix after his display of resilience and smarts in a unanimous-decision victory over Wale Omotoso.

Omotoso (23-1, 19 KOs) entered the ring 17.2 pounds heavier than his 146.8 at the formal weigh-in, according to HBO. And at 164, he was 10 pounds heavier than Vargas, who seemed to be at a distinct disadvantage.

The Nigerian got off to a fast start, dropping Vargas with a body shot in the second round. However, Vargas then gathered his wits. The Las Vegan relied on a jab and mixed in a precise right to put an end to the Nigerian's momentum and begin to dictate the pace.

Omotoso landed more hard punches throughout a competitive fight but, after the fifth round, Vargas seemed to be in control. The scores were 96-93, 96-93 and 97-92.

FIGHT RESULTS

THROUGH MARCH 17, 2013

HEAVYWEIGHTS

MANUEL CHARR KO 2 YAKUP SAGLAM
CHRISTIAN HAMMER KO 6 OLEKSIY MAZIKIN
TONY THOMPSON KO 2 DAVID PRICE
VYACHESLAV GLAZKOV D 12 MALIK SCOTT
ALEXANDER FLORES KO 1 HAROLD SCONIERS
MAGOMED ABDUSALAMOV KO 5 VICTOR BISBAL
ALEXANDER DIMITRENKO W 8 IVICA PERKOVIC
JOHN MCDERMOTT W 10 MATT SKELTON
ANDY RUIZ JR. KO 1 MATTHEW GREER

CRUISERWEIGHTS

ALEXANDER ALEKSEEV W 12 GARRETT WILSON
DENTON DALEY W 10 RICHARD HALL
CHINA CLARKE KO 7 WADI CAMACHO
YUNIESKI GONZALEZ KO 8 ROWLAND BRYANT

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS

PAWEL GLAZEWSKI W 10 BARTLOMIEJ GRAFKA
ANATOLIY DUDCHENKO KO 5 SABOU BALLOGOU
ISMAYL SILLAKH KO 2 DANIEL ALLOTEY
LIONELL THOMPSON KO 2 CHUCK MUSSACHIO
DANIEL MACKINNON W 12 MARK FLANAGAN
VIKAPITA MERORO KO 3 HAMZA WANDERA
THOMAS WILLIAMS JR. KO 3 KEVIN ENGEL
ROBERTO BOLONTI KO 3 JORGE OLIVERA
GEORGE GROVES KO 3 DARIO BALMACEDA
CORNELIUS WHITE W 8 OTIS GRIFFIN
BERNARD HOPKINS W 12 TAVORIS CLOUD
DOUDOU NGUMBU W 12 VYACHESLAV UZELKOV

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS

BADOU JACK W 8 DON MOUTON
JUERGEN DOBERSTEIN W 12 BLAS MARTINEZ
PETER MANFREDO JR. W 10 WALTER WRIGHT
MARCO ANTONIO PERIBAN KO 2 SAMUEL MILLER

MIDDLEWEIGHTS

TUREANO JOHNSON W 8 WILLIE FORTUNE
J'LEON LOVE W 10 DERRICK FINDLEY
PATRICK MAJEWSKI W 10 JAMAAL DAVIS
FITZ VANDERPOOL W 10 ROBERTO MCLELLAN
JORGE MELENDEZ KO 4 RYAN DAVIS
DMITRY CHUDINOV KO 1 MILTON NUNEZ
GIOVANNI LORENZO KO 1 JOHNNY VALENTIN
DARREN BARKER KO 4 SIMONE ROTOLO
DANNY BUTLER KO 10 THOMAS COSTELLO
MATEO VERON W 10 MARCOS VERGARA
DASHON JOHNSON KO 7 ADAM TRUPISH
CERRESSO FORT W 8 DENNIS SHARPE
OSUMANU ADAMA W 10 GRADY BREWER

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS

ISHE SMITH W 12 CORNELIUS BUNDRAGE
(F) OXANDIA CASTILLO KO 2 HANNA GABRIEL
IVAN SANCHEZ KO 5 JAVIER GARCIA ROCHE
WILLIE NELSON KO 1 MICHAEL MEDINA
JERMALL CHARLO KO 3 GILBERT VENEGAS
HUGO CENTENO JR. W 10 KEANDRAE LEATHERWOOD
MICHAEL OLIVEIRA KO 2 ORLANDO DE JESUS ESTRADA
EDDIE GOMEZ KO 1 JAVIER GOMEZ

WELTERWEIGHTS

GIANLUCA BRANCO W 12 LUKASZ MACIEC
WILLIAM SILVA W 12 HECTOR SANTANA
DENNIS LAURENTE KO 1 DONDON LAPUZ
BETHUEL USHONA W 12 EMMANUEL CLOTTEY
CHRIS VAN HEERDEN W 12 MATTHEW HATTON
LEE PURDY KO 9 COSME RIVERA
KEITH THURMAN W 12 JAN ZAVECK
ASLANBEK KOZAEV D 12 DAVID AVANESYAN
JESSIE VARGAS W 10 WALE OMOTOSO
TIMOTHY BRADLEY W 12 RUSLAN PROVODNIKOV

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS

LAMONT PETERSON KO 8 KENDALL HOLT
JAY SOLMIANO KO 1 EUSEBIO BALUARTE
DARREN HAMILTON W 12 STEVE WILLIAMS
CHRIS ALGIERI W 10 JOSE PERALTA ALEJO
KAIZER MABUZA W 8 ISAAC HLATSHWAYO
OMAR FIGUEROA KO 1 HENRY AURAD
SHAYNE SINGLETON W 10 CURTIS WOODHOUSE
EMMANUEL TAYLOR KO 8 VICTOR CAYO
CESAR CUENCA KO 5 DIEGO PONCE
WALTER CASTILLO W 10 CRISTIAN RUIZ
PATOMSUK PATHOMPOTHONG KO 11 RUBEN KENNEDY

LIGHTWEIGHTS

LENNY ZAPPAVIGNA KO 3 ROMEO JAKOSALEM
SHOJI KAWASE KO 9 SHUHEI TSUCHIYA
YOSHITAKA KATO W 10 YUHEI SUZUKI
BRYAN VASQUEZ KO 1 LUIS ERNESTO JOSE
PAULUS MOSES KO 4 MZONKE FANA

RICHAR ABRIL W 12 SHARIF BOGERE
GHISLAIN MADUMA KO 10 JOSAFAT PEREZ
ANDREY KLIMOV TD 7 MATIAS GOMEZ
EDUARD TROYANOVSKY KO 2 ORLEN PADILLA
JAMIE KAVANAGH TD 5 SALVADOR GARCIA
(F) ERICA ANABELLA FARIAS KO 3 LILIANA PALMERA
EDIS TATLI W 12 FELIX LORA
EMILIANO MARSILI KO 2 LUCA GIACON
MICHAEL PEREZ D 7 LONNIE SMITH
JOSE MAXIAN KO 7 TSUKASA SAITO
JORGE LINARES KO 8 DAVID RODELA
DENIS SHAFIKOV DQ 11 ALISHER RAHIMOV

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS

ALEJANDRO PEREZ W 10 ART HOVHANNISYAN
MARCOS JIMENEZ KO 9 MARIO SANTIAGO
(F) RAMONA KUEHNE W 10 HALANNA DOS SANTOS
GARY RUSSELL JR. W 10 VYACHESLAV GUSEV
ARGENIS MENDEZ KO 4 JUAN CARLOS SALGADO

FEATHERWEIGHTS

RYOL LI LEE D 12 CIRILO ESPINO
(F) ALEJANDRA OLIVERAS W 10 DAYANA CORDERO
JHONNY GONZALEZ W 12 EUSEBIO OSEJO
KAMIL LASZCZYK W 10 KRZYSZTOF CIESLAK
EVGENY GRADOVICH W 12 BILLY DIB
BRAULIO SANTOS KO 1 KEVIN HOSKINS
ORLANDO CRUZ KO 6 AALAN MARTINEZ
ROBERT MARROQUIN KO 3 ANTONIO ESCALANTE

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS

CHRISTOPHER MARTIN W 8 JOSE BERANZA
ROMAN MORALES KO 5 JESUS HERNANDEZ
CHRIS AVALOS KO 4 JOSE LUIS ARAIZA
GENESIS SERVANIA KO 7 ANGKY ANGKOTTA
DAIKI KAMEDA KO 6 FAUSTINO CUPUL
TOMOKI KAMEDA KO 6 NOULDY MANAKANE
KENTARO MASUDA KO 3 MARANGIN MARBUN
SHINGO WAKE KO 10 YUKINORI OGUNI
ALBERTO GUEVARA W 10 JOSE ALFREDO TIRADO
SYLVESTER LOPEZ W 12 DANILO PENA
JESSE MAGDALENO KO 3 CARLOS FULGENCIO

BANTAMWEIGHTS

JOSE NIEVES KO 9 DANNY FLORES
PETCH KOKIETGYM KO 8 ALBERT ALCOY
RYOSUKE IWASA W 10 MARJOHN YAP
PAULUS AMBUNDA W 12 PUNGLUANG SOR SINGYU
STEPHANE JAMOYE KO 8 ASHLEY SEXTON
KOHEI OBA W 10 ZEROFIT JEROPE
ROBERTO VASQUEZ D 12 JOHN APOLINARIO
DENNIS TUBIERON KO 3 JAMES MOKOGINTA

JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHTS

MELVIN GUMBAN W 10 MARJUN TABAMO
CARLOS CUADRAS KO 7 VICTOR ZALETA
(F) ZULINA MUNOZ W 10 TENKAI TSUNAMI
JOHNNY GARCIA KO 11 OSCAR IBARRA
TEPPARITH SINGWANCHA W 12 DAIBOY SAJIRO

FLYWEIGHTS

KEVIN SATCHELL W 12 LUKE WILTON
TAKUYA KOGAWA KO 10 SHIGETAKA IKEHARA
JUAN CARLOS REVECO W 12 MASAYUKI KURODA
ULISES LARA KO 2 OMAR SOTO
IVAN SORIANO TD 8 MICHAEL LANDERO
XAVIER URPI KO 1 IVAN POZO

JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS

(F) JESSICA CHAVEZ W 10 IRMA SANCHEZ
BONGANI SILILA KO 9 LUZUKO SIYO
OSWALDO NOVOA KO 4 JAVIER MARTINEZ RESENDIZ
DONNIE NIETES D 12 MOISES FUENTES
(F) IBETH SILVA W 10 NAOKO SHIBATA
(F) YESICA BOPP KO 6 CAROLINA ALVAREZ
YADER CARDOZA KO 4 ELIECER QUEZADA
JOHNRIEL CASIMERO W 12 LUIS ALBERTO RIOS
BENEZER ALOLOD TD 7 REY LORETO

STRAWWEIGHTS

RYUJI HARA W 10 YUMA IWAHASHI
(F) SAMSON TOR BUAMAS KO 3 AISAH ALICO
(F) ETSUKO TADA W 10 YUKO KUROKI
MERLITO SABILLO KO 8 LUIS DE LA ROSA

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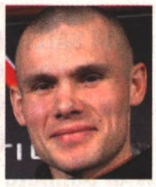
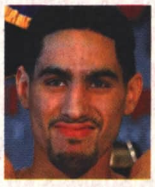
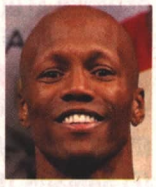
PREDICITIONS ARE MADE BY RING STAFFMEMBERS MICHAEL ROSENTHAL, DOUG FISCHER AND LEM SATTERFIELD.

APRIL

SAUL ALVAREZ VS. AUSTIN TROUT
DATE: April 20, 2013
LOCATION: Alamodome, San Antonio
DIVISION: Junior middleweights (for Alvarez's WBC title)
TV: Showtime
WATCHABILITY RATING (UP TO FIVE STARS): ★★★★
ALSO FIGHTING: Omar Figueroa vs. Abner Cotto, 12 rounds, junior welterweights
SIGNIFICANCE: Alvarez (41-0-1, 30 KOs) has faced some notable opponents but this is a significant step up. Trout (26-0, 14 KOs) looked sensational in a one-sided decision over veteran Miguel Cotto in his most recent fight. Alvarez is making the sixth defense of his WBC title.
PREDICTION: Rosenthal – Alvarez KO 10; Fischer – Alvarez UD; Satterfield – Trout UD.



SERGIO MARTINEZ VS. MARTIN MURRAY
DATE: April 27, 2013
LOCATION: Buenos Aires, Argentina
DIVISION: Middleweights (for Martinez's RING and WBC titles)
TV: HBO
WATCHABILITY RATING (UP TO FIVE STARS): ★★★★
ALSO FIGHTING: Luis Carlos Abregu vs. Antonin Decarie, 12 rounds, welterweights
SIGNIFICANCE: Murray (25-0-1, 11 KOs) probably doesn't stand a better chance against Martinez (50-2-2, 28 KOs) than countrymen Darren Barker and Matthew Macklin. The storyline here is Martinez's triumphant return to his homeland after making his name in Spain and the U.S.
PREDICTION: Rosenthal – Martinez KO 9; Fischer – Martinez UD; Satterfield – Martinez KO 11.

DANNY GARCIA VS. ZAB JUDAH
DATE: April 27, 2013
LOCATION: Brooklyn, N.Y.
DIVISION: Junior welterweights (for Garcia's RING, WBC and WBA titles)
TV: Showtime
WATCHABILITY RATING (UP TO FIVE STARS): ★★★★
ALSO FIGHTING: Peter Quillin vs. Fernando Guerrero, 12 rounds, for Quillin's WBO middleweight title.
SIGNIFICANCE: Judah (42-7, 29 KOs) has been known to fold in his biggest fights but probably has the skills and experience to test Garcia (25-0, 16 KOs), who continues to confound his critics. In light of Garcia's power, we can't help but to think of Judah's KO loss to Kostya Tszyu.
PREDICTION: Rosenthal – Garcia KO 6; Fischer – Garcia KO 7; Satterfield – Garcia KO 9.

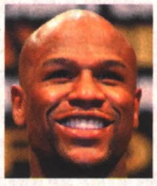
OTHER MATCHES

APRIL 19 – Javier Fortuna vs. Miguel Zamudio, 12 rounds, featherweights (ESPN2).

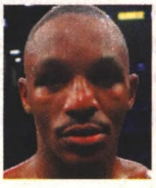
APRIL 20 – Tyson Fury vs. Steve Cunningham, 12 rounds, heavyweights, in New York (NBC) … Nathan Cleverly vs. Robin Krasniqi, 12 rounds, for Cleverly's WBO light heavyweight title, in London (Epix) … Victor Terrazas vs. Christian Mijares, 12 rounds, for vacant WBC junior featherweight title, in Mexico City (UniMas).

APRIL 27 – Amir Khan vs. Julio Diaz, 12 rounds, junior welterweights, in Sheffield, England (Showtime) … Chris Arreola vs. Bermane Stiverne, 12 rounds, heavyweights, in Ontario, Calif. (HBO).

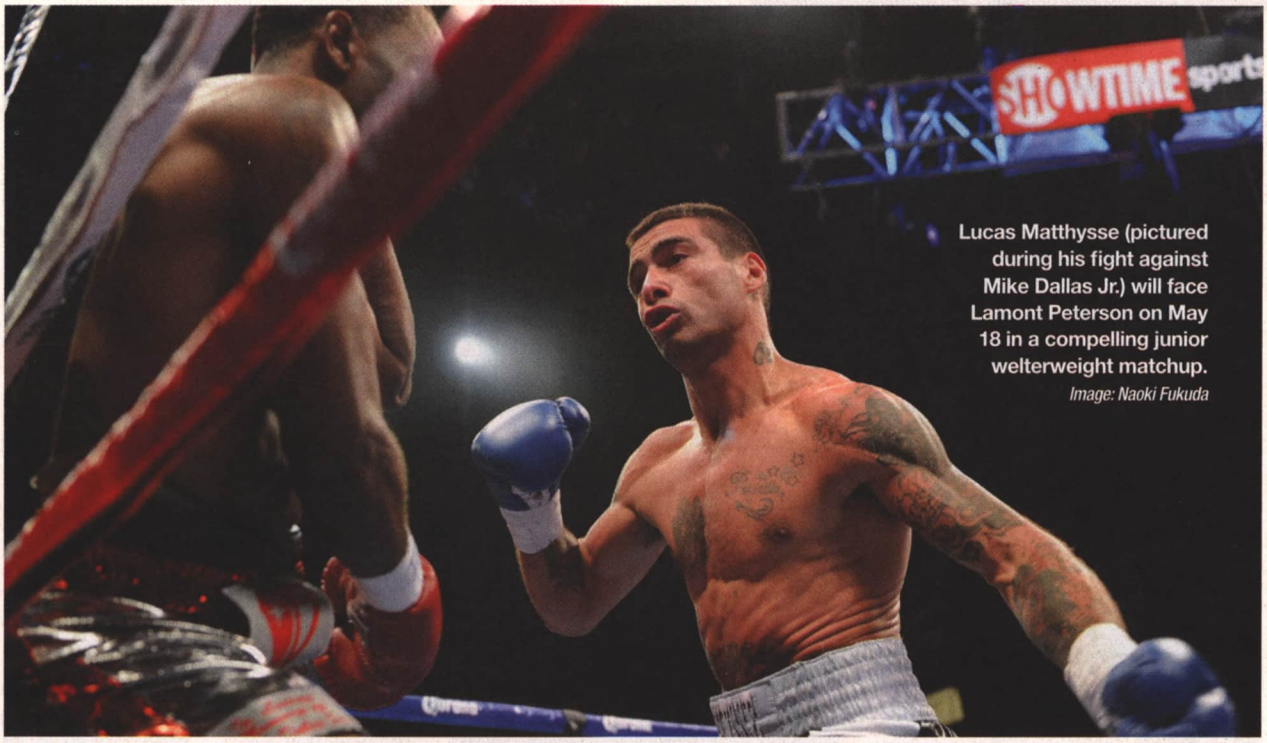
MAY



FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR. VS. ROBERT GUERRERO
DATE: May 4, 2013
LOCATION: MGM Grand, Las Vegas
DIVISION: Welterweights (for THE RING and Mayweather's WBC title)
TV: HBO
WATCHABILITY RATING (UP TO FIVE STARS): ★★★★
ALSO FIGHTING: Daniel Ponce De Leon vs. Abner Mares, 12 rounds, for Ponce De Leon's WBC featherweight title
SIGNIFICANCE: Mayweather (43-0, 26 KOs) is fighting for the first time since his competitive, but clear points victory over Miguel Cotto last May, after which he did a short stint in jail. Guerrero (31-1-1, 18 KOs) made a splash with a convincing decision over Andre Berto in November.
PREDICTION: Rosenthal – Mayweather UD; Fischer – Mayweather UD; Satterfield – Mayweather UD.



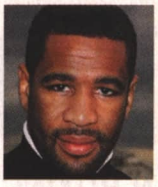
DEVON ALEXANDER VS. KELL BROOK
DATE: May 18, 2013
LOCATION: Boardwalk Hall, Atlantic City, N.J.
DIVISION: welterweights (for Alexander's IBF title)
TV: Showtime
WATCHABILITY RATING (UP TO FIVE STARS): ★★★★
ALSO FIGHTING: Co-feature to Lamont Peterson vs. Lucas Matthysse
SIGNIFICANCE: Alexander (24-1, 13 KOs) has beaten Matthysse, Marcos Maidana and Randall Bailey in succession, an impressive streak. This is an



Lucas Matthysse (pictured during his fight against Mike Dallas Jr.) will face Lamont Peterson on May 18 in a compelling junior welterweight matchup.
Image: Naoki Fukuda

opportunity for Brook (29-0, 19 KOs) to prove he belongs among the elite welterweights.
PREDICTION: Rosenthal – Alexander UD; Fischer – Alexander SD; Satterfield – Alexander UD.

LAMONT PETERSON VS. LUCAS MATTHYSSE



DATE: May 18, 2013
LOCATION: Boardwalk Hall, Atlantic City, N.J.
DIVISION: junior welterweights (for Peterson's IBF title)
TV: Showtime
WATCHABILITY RATING (UP TO FIVE STARS): ★★★★★
ALSO FIGHTING: Co-feature to Devon Alexander vs. Kell Brook
SIGNIFICANCE: Peterson (31-1-1, 16 KOs) bounced back from a positive drug test that tainted his victory over Amir Khan by thrashing Kendall Holt in eight rounds in February. Matthysse (33-2, 31 KOs), hungry for a title, stopped Mike Dallas with one punch in the first round in January.
PREDICTION: Rosenthal – Peterson UD; Fischer – Matthysse KO 10; Satterfield – Peterson KO 8.

OTHER MATCHES

MAY 3 – Yota Sato vs. Srisaket Sor Rungvisai, 12 rounds, for Sato's WBC junior bantamweight title, in Thailand

MAY 4 – Wladimir Klitschko vs. Francesco Pianeta, 12 rounds, for Klitschko's RING, IBF, WBO and WBA titles, in Mannheim, Germany (Epix)

MAY 6 – Takashi Uchiyama vs. Jaider Parra, 12 rounds, for Uchiyama's WBA junior lightweight title, in Tokyo … On the same card, Kohei Kono vs. Liborio Solis, 12 rounds, for Kono's WBA junior bantamweight title.

MAY 11 – Ricky Burns vs. TBA, 12 rounds, lightweights (for Burns' WBO title), in Scotland … Omar Narvaez vs. Daniel Rosas, 12 rounds, for Narvaez's WBO junior bantamweight title, in Argentina … Holly Holm vs. Mary McGee, 10 rounds, junior welterweights, Albuquerque, N.M.

MAY 17 – Denis Lebedev vs. Guillermo Jones, 12 rounds, for Lebedev's WBA cruiserweight title, Moscow

MAY 25 – Mikkel Kessler vs. Carl Froch, 12 rounds, WBA and IBF super middleweight title unification, in London (HBO) … On the same telecast, Jean Pascal vs. Lucian Bute, 12 rounds, light heavyweights, in Montreal (HBO)

THE MATCHUPS HERE WERE SCHEDULED AS OF THE TIME WE WENT TO PRESS. PLEASE GO TO RINGTV.COM OR SCAN THIS QR CODE TO VIEW AN UPDATED SCHEDULE.

Image: Kevork Djansezian-Getty

The incessant pounding of the head – Timothy Bradley's head, in this case – makes boxing more damaging than mixed martial arts.

DANGER A HEAD

MMA MIGHT SEEM MORE VIOLENT THAN BOXING BUT THE LATTER CLEARLY IS MORE DANGEROUS

By: **Scott LaFee**

With seconds left in the first round of their March welterweight slugfest, Russian brawler Ruslan Provodnikov slammed an overhead right into Tim Bradley's unprotected head. Clearly stunned, Bradley wobbled upright for five seconds, pitched forward onto the mat to flop around for a few more seconds before finally regaining enough awareness to resume the fight.

It would prove to be a long, brutal fight for both men, who would go toe-to-toe for the entire 12 rounds, connecting hard, repeatedly and with maximum damage. Though Bradley would ultimately prevail by decision, he would be nearly knocked out at least three times by the more powerful puncher, Provodnikov.

Afterward, there would be no grandiloquent proclamations. In a post-fight interview, the glassy-eyed Bradley told HBO's Max Kellerman: "I think I got a concussion. I know I do. Without a doubt … I'm dizzy now."

Whatever the merits of the Bradley-Provodnikov match (some say it might prove to be the fight of the year), this bout is the latest indisputable example of the neurological dangers inherent in boxing. While Bradley's obvious injuries – the superficial cuts and bruises – will heal, the same might not be said for his battered brain and the resulting trauma yet to be revealed.

"Clearly people will be watching Tim's next fight very closely," said Dr. Paul Wallace, a member of the California State Athletic Commission and a ringside physician for 24 years. "He may not have the latitude (to take the beating) he received (from Provodnikov)."

No one claims the "the sweet science" is actually sweet. Boxing is a rumble with rules, two men (or wom-

en) seriously intent upon inflicting maximum, necessary harm. Compared to the high, sanguinary drama of mixed martial arts, however, boxing would seem to be the lesser health risk.

But appearances are deceiving. MMA contests are designed for maximum stage effect. It's a big reason why the sport has grown so popular so fast. Walls of chain link, which compose the UFC's cage, are a lot scarier-looking than ropes around a ring. MMA fights are bloodier, too. Lacerations are, by far, the most common injury in MMA fights.

Boxing takes a tougher toll.

Though analyses of MMA injuries and injury risk are limited by its relative newness, there is some data. In 2006, for example, researchers at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine analyzed all professional MMA events between September 2001 and December 2004 in Nevada. That worked out to 171 MMA matches involving 220 different fighters.

There were 98 injuries to 78 fighters. Sixty-nine of the matches (40.3 percent) ended with at least one injured fighter. Facial cuts were the most common injury, accounting for almost half of all injuries, followed distantly by hand, nose and eye injuries. Age was a big risk factor: Older fighters tended to get hurt more often.

By contrast, consider the findings of a 2011 study by the Center for Injury Research and Policy (CIRP) at Nationwide Children's Hospital in Columbus, Ohio, which looked at hospital or emergency room-documented boxing injuries among participants aged 6 and older between 1990 and 2008.

On average, there were 8,700 boxing-related injuries annually, with roughly 2,500 of them involving children and adolescents under 17. More worrisome was the trend line, which rose steadily from 5,361 boxing-related injuries in 1990 to almost 17,000 in 2008.

The most common injury diagnosis (more than one-quarter of all injuries) was a fracture. The hand was most often involved (33 percent), followed by the head and neck (23 percent). Concussions and other closed head injuries (CHIs) accounted for 9 percent of hospital reports among 12- to 17-year-olds, 8 percent among 18- to 24-year-olds and 9 percent for boxers 25- to 34 years old.

That last set of numbers particularly troubles Dr. Gary Smith, CIRP's director and senior author of the study. "We expected a smaller proportion of concussions and CHIs among younger boxers since they generate a lower punch force," he said at the time of the study's release.

"The fact that young boxers are experiencing a similar proportion of concussions and CHIs as older boxers is extremely concerning given the potential risk of developing chronic traumatic encephalophathy (CTE) with repetitive brain trauma. These repetitive blows to the head may be placing boxers under 18 years of age at risk for neurological impairment and psychological problems due to CTE."

Image: Kevin C. Cox-Getty

Mixed Martial Arts might seem to be more violent than boxing but the brains of its participants don't take as much punishment.

MMA is violent, says Wallace, but boxing is dangerous. Those dangers are inherent, sometimes unseen and usually underappreciated, particularly compared to MMA.

Point No. 1: While MMA fighters necessarily divide their attack between punching and kicking, with a fair amount of wrestling thrown in, boxing is mostly about delivering blows to an opponent's head. A knockout is the fastest route to victory.

"Boxing is unique because participants are rewarded for intentionally striking their opponent in the face and head with the intent of harming or incapacitating them," said Smith, who is also a professor of pediatrics at the Ohio State University College of Medicine.

MMA fighters absorb fewer blows to the head than boxers, both in matches and in practice.

Point No. 2: Boxers take those head blows a lot longer. A kid beginning his boxing career in adolescence will absorb thousands of head shots before he ever reaches his prime. "Rounds and rounds, years and years of sparring and brain-jarring," said Wallace. Professional boxers spar daily for weeks or months before a big bout, taking multitudinous, unrecorded blows before they even step into the ring. MMA fighters do not face that kind of punching exposure.

Point No. 3: Getting hit in boxing hurts more. Various studies have estimated the peak punching power of boxers (depending upon their weight and ability) ranges from roughly 500 to 1,300 pounds of force per square inch. A 1985 study of Frank Bruno, who went on to become the WBC heavyweight champ, found he could generate 920 pounds of force in the lab. Researchers extrapolated that to 1,420 pounds in a real-life bout, enough to snap an opponent's head at 53 g – or 53 times the force of gravity.

"A considerable amount of MMA fighting goes to the floor," said Wallace. "Punches thrown on the floor don't have the full leverage, weight and torque of those thrown by a standing opponent."

Point No. 4: The rules and reality of MMA are more likely to reduce serious injury. When a boxer takes a brain-jarring hit to the head, he or she has eight seconds to sufficiently recover and continue fighting. Most often, they do. In that brief time, Wallace says it's exceedingly difficult for ringside physicians and referees to decide that one blow is the blow.

Boxers are trained from their earliest fights to take a punch and keep coming. "It's a sense of immortality and being a warrior that's a part of the sport," Wallace said. The essential point is to pound an opponent into submission; voluntary surrender is uniformly scorned. (Remember what happened to Roberto Duran after his famous "No mas" fight with Sugar Ray Leonard in 1980. His reputation took a bigger hit than any of the many he took during the bout.)

Conversely, MMA fights are relatively short – typically three 5-minute rounds with one-minute breaks – and there are ways a fight can be honorably stopped beyond the discretion of the referee. A fighter at risk can "tap out," that is, signal to the ref and opponent that he or she cannot continue. Unlike boxing, there is no shame to tapping out. It simply marks the end of that fight.

Boxing and MMA are combat sports. Participants get hurt. It's part of the experience. Boxing, of course, has the much longer history and the much longer list of serious injury and death. Over the centuries, hundreds of boxers have died from injuries incurred in sport, both inside and outside the ring. Some estimates put the number at more than 1,500 documented deaths.

A handful of MMA fighters have died from injuries incurred in the cage as well. There will be more, but it seems unlikely that MMA will ever acquire the deadly ambiance of boxing. Wallace certainly thinks so, and it worries him.

"People want to see competitive fights," he said. "They want to see boxers do their best. I do too. But I also want to see boxers be good sons, husbands and fathers. I watch some bouts and I wonder what life for these boxers will be like." ■

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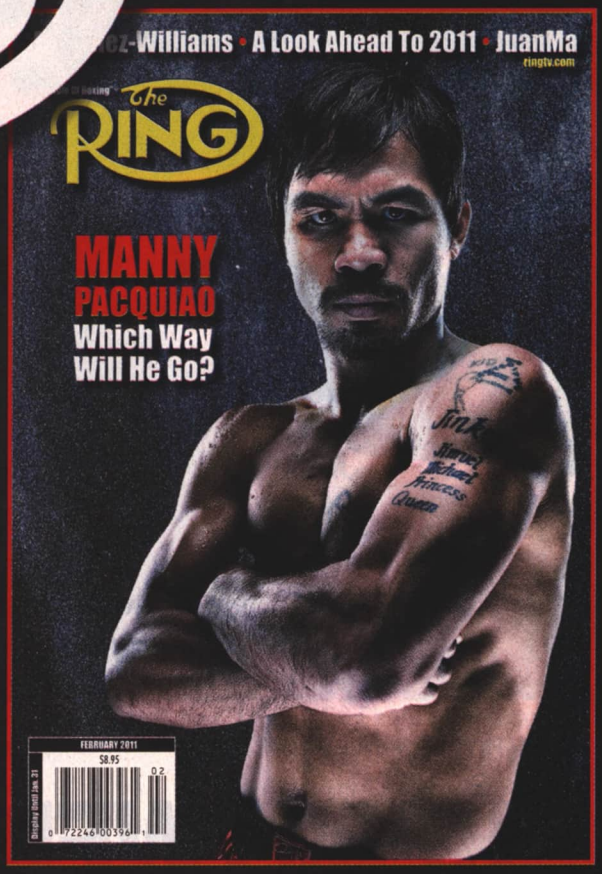

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Courtesy of DiBella Entertainment

Sonya Lamonakis went to the gym simply to learn self defense but ended up a successful professional boxer.

HEAVYWEIGHT DREAMS

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHER BY DAY, BOXER BY NIGHT, NO. 1-RANKED SONYA LAMONAKIS WANTS TO START COLLECTING BELTS

By: **Ryan Songalia**

Sonya Lamonakis came to boxing at the relatively late age of 27. For her, it was almost too late.

As Lamonakis prepared to pull out of a parking lot after using an ATM in Springfield, Mass., two men jumped into her car, one in the back seat and the other in the passenger's seat. One of the men pulled her head back and tried to place a knife to her throat, which she quickly covered with her hand. He demanded her money or else. As the other man robbed her, she could feel the blade penetrate her hand and finally moved it when she could no longer stand the pain.

"I think once he realized he cut me, he ended up leaving and taking whatever they took from the car," Lamonakis said of the moment that convinced her she needed to learn how to defend herself. "I didn't even go to the police. I just went home and cried for eight hours."

Lamonakis visited her local boxing gym shortly after the incident. Not only did she learn how to defend herself, she began to excel. Three months after walking through the gym doors, she had her first fight. Then two years later, after winning every amateur tournament in New England, she moved to New York and won the New York Golden Gloves four times and National Golden Gloves twice.

Today, Lamonakis, 38, is the consensus No. 1 female heavyweight boxer in the world with a record of 7-0-2 (1 knockout) over three years. Signed by New York-based promoter Lou DiBella, she has become a staple of his cards in New York and New England.

The native of Greece is hoping to

Lamonakis remained unbeaten when she outpointed Tanzee Daniel (right) for the second time. *Courtesy of DiBella Entertainment*

make 2013 her breakout year. After a 2012 that saw her receive two draws in uneven performances, she has switched trainers to Marcos Suarez, who also handles female pros Keisher McLeod-Wells, Nydia Feliciano and amateur standout Christina Cruz.

Lamonakis recently returned from Phuket, Thailand, where she trained in the sweltering heat at the famed Tiger Muay Thai training camp. She cut 38 pounds, which should improve her speed and stamina. She weighed 237 for her last fight.

"I feel like she's gonna be the champion," said Suarez, who has her spar with men because it's difficult to find women to work with her. "To beat her is going to be hard. She's very powerful and for a heavyweight she throws a lot of punches. I don't see her losing to anyone."

Finding opponents for her has been difficult, and not just because of her talent. Boxrec.com lists only 19 female heavyweights who have fought in the last year in the entire world. Of her nine fights, three have been against Tiffany Woodard (two wins and a draw), and two against Tanzee Daniel, whom she has twice beaten by decision.

At the time of publication, Lamonakis was scheduled to meet her most experienced opponent to date in Martha Salazar on April 13. Salazar (11-4, 3 KOs) has faced higher caliber opponents than Lamonakis has, including a decision loss to Vonda Ward in the first WBC female heavyweight title fight in 2007. Salazar hasn't fought since then, however.

"There's not a big pool to choose from, but she is a good fighter. (Salazar has) fought a lot of good people," Lamonakis said.

The dearth of credible opponents is one reason Lamonakis is glad to have invested in her education. She is an elementary school teacher at the Stem Institute in Harlem, N.Y., by day. Lamonakis received her undergraduate degree from Springfield College, then her first master's degree at American International College and a second at Stony Brook College.

"I'm a teacher who boxes. I went to college for my education and boxing is a hobby for me," Lamonakis said. "If you put boxing in your life as a time span, it's very short compared to your whole life. I know it's not going to be forever. It's an important part of my life for a 15-year period and after that it'll be done and I'll still need something to come back on. That's why I have my education. So I'm a teacher before I'm a fighter."

Her experience in the ring and in the classroom gives her a unique perspective to share with the teenagers she mentors as the volunteer head of the Give a Kid a Dream program at Gleason's Gym in Brooklyn, N.Y. She receives the young amateur boxers' report cards from their teachers and doles out real world advice.

"I always tell them, 'Listen, one in 3 million people can (make a living) boxing, so if you don't end up as a pro boxer, you have to have something to fall back on," she said. "If you fall, break your knee, you can't box anymore."

Being the No. 1-ranked contender in her division isn't enough to keep her satisfied. She's hoping to become just the second woman to hold a heavyweight championship.

DiBella wants that, too. He features a women's boxing match on nearly every one of his cards. One of them

will be a female heavyweight championship bout involving Lamonakis in the next six months, he said, but "it's got to be the right situation."

"It's gotta be an undercard of an HBO show in New England or New York," DiBella said.

DiBella, a former programming exec at HBO Boxing, said the reason it's hard to promote women is that "there is virtually no television market for them." That makes it difficult to financially justify flying in opponents from out of town.

However, he has become an advocate. "They deliver with excitement; they deliver with blood and guts. Frankly, they're more offensive-oriented than the men. They're hungrier," he said.

Despite having few summits left to reach, Lamonakis remains hungrier than ever.

"I haven't won any titles yet," she said. "I want to fight for every title I can find out there. I want to have the belts." ■

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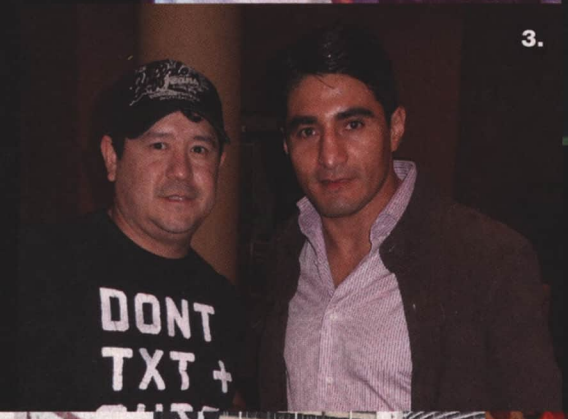
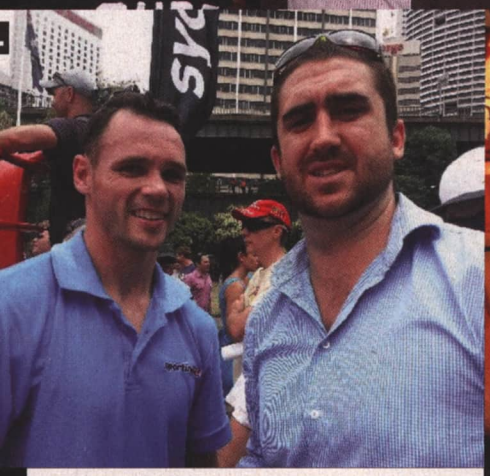
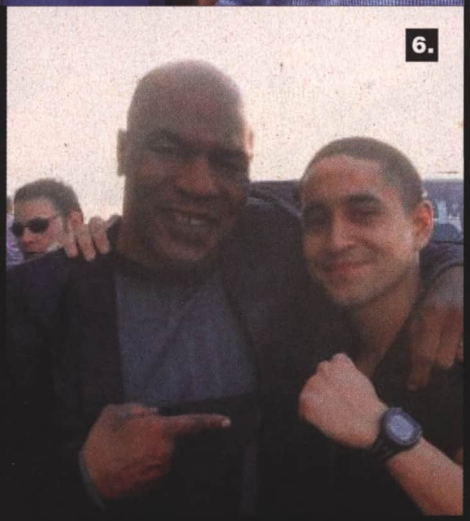
PICK TWO FINGERS: Former heavyweight champ Max Baer (right) picked on the wrong fella this time. That's Jerome Horwitz, better known as Curly Howard of Three Stooges, wrapped around one of the sport's most-feared punchers. The gag photo was taken on the MGM lot in Hollywood, Calif., we guess in the mid- to late-1930s. Baer, a born ham, gravitated into the entertainment business after his boxing career. We hope he remembered the classic defense for the two-finger move.

THE RING will select a photo from its vast archive each month to publish in the magazine. For more archive photos, go to our website — RingTV.com — or scan the QR code.



1. Brian Herrera (left) with Abner Mares at a news conference in Los Angeles to promote the Mares-Anselmo Moreno fight last November. 2. Ryan Largo (center) with Luisito Espinosa (left) and Mercito Gesta in January at a restaurant in Fremont, Calif. 3. Daniel Serrano (left) with Erik Morales at Fantasy Springs Resort Casino in Indio, Calif. 4. Will Kaye (right) with Daniel Geale before Geale defeated Anthony Mundine in January in Sydney. 5. David Collins (left) and Mark Hopkins (right) with Marcos Maidana. 6. Emilio Ortiz (right) with Mike Tyson in Los Angeles.





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Send us your photos from a fight with you posing next to a celebrity, athlete, or other famous person and we will consider it for publication in the magazine. Send photos to **celebrityphotos@sepublications.com.** Make sure to include your name(s), celebrity name(s), the fight attended, and your contact information. See you at the fights!

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